

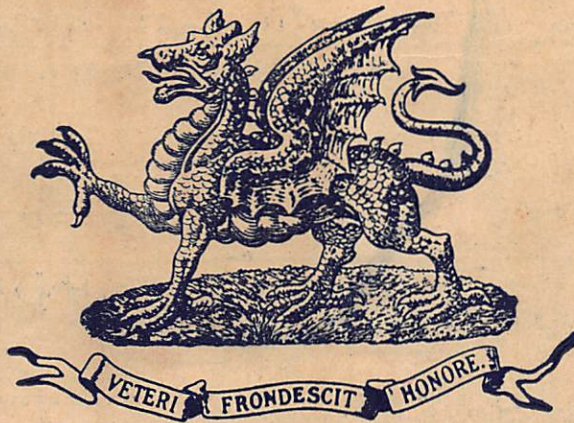
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Blenheim Ramillies Oudenarde Malplaquet Dettingen Guadeloupe 1759 Douro Talavera

Punjab Sevastopol Takou Forts South Africa 1879 Chitral Relief of Kimberley Paardeberg S. Africa 1900-02

THE DRAGON

THE REGIMENTAL PAPER OF THE BUFFS.



No. 437.

April, 1936.

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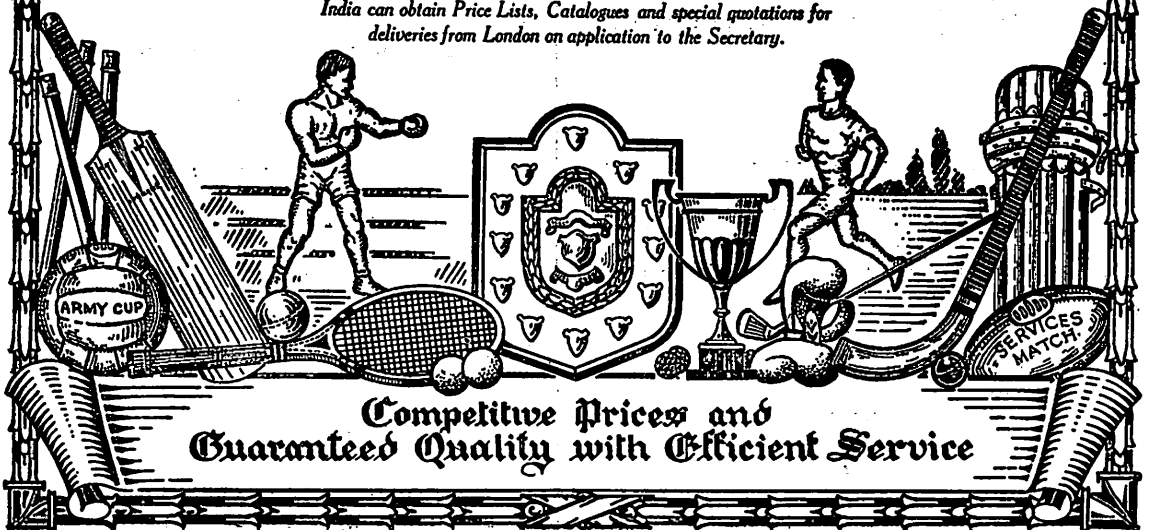


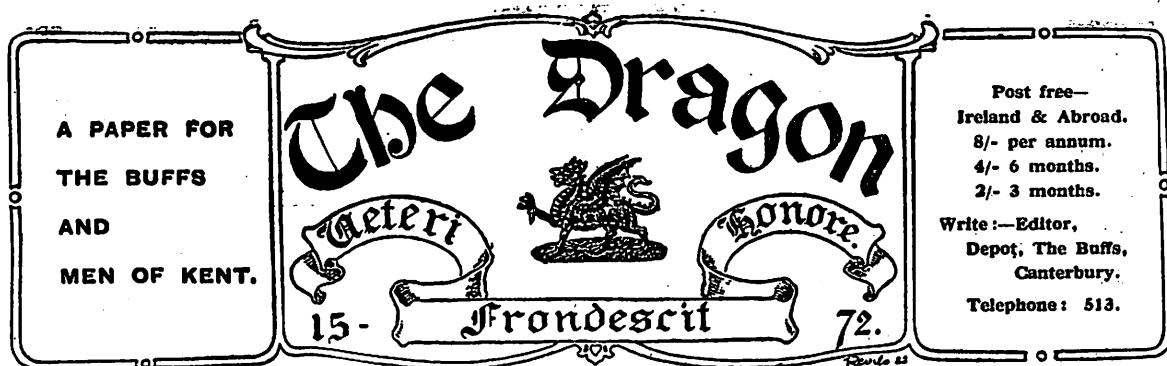
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Allied Regiments.

Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. The Vancouver Regiment.
3rd Battalion (Werrima Infantry) Australian Military Forces.

No. 437.

April, 1936.

Price Sixpence.

Personalia.

THE Colonel of the Regiment had the pleasure of a visit at his home from Mr. Bruce, prior to his return to Burma, accompanied by Mr. Atkinson and his fiancée.

He had the honour of presenting the following officers at His Majesty's first Levée on March 18th:—

Lieut.-Colonel Thomson, Captains Roscoe Reid and Oliver, Lieut. Craig, 2/Lieuts. Walker, Anderson, Bell, Clarke, Denne and Hews.

Those who attended the Levée were delighted to see Mr. C. E. Vaughan, M.B.E., on duty there as a member of His Majesty's Bodyguard.

We offer our sincerest sympathy to the family of Sir David Campbell on the death of a great soldier and a great sportsman. His great wish was "May I play the game to the end," and he certainly did.

We are glad to hear that Major-General Kennedy continues to make good progress and that recently he took half an hour's walk in Richmond Park.

We regret to hear that Colonel Sir Theodore Brinckman has been unwell for some time, but hope his projected visit to Brighton will prove beneficial.

Colonel Sir Arthur Trollope has sold his farm in Natal and is shortly going to reside permanently near Peterborough.

The Colonel of the Regiment writes:

"Colonel Findlay has resigned his position as Secretary of our Association and Editor of *The Dragon*. It is always very sad when a Regimental figure disappears. But we all have to disappear sometime and we all hope to leave behind us a pleasant memory, and there will be, for many, pleasant memories of Colonel Findlay. On behalf of the Regiment I wish to thank him most heartily for the work he has done during the past twelve years for our Regiment and our Association."

The Regiment owes a great debt to Colonel B. S. Collard for his services in command of the 4th Battalion during an extremely difficult period. A tribute to him by the Colonel of the Regiment appears in another column.

Our deep sympathy to Major and Mrs. Stronge in their anxiety about their daughter Bridget, who, we are delighted to hear, is going on very well now.

We offer our hearty congratulations to Major Donald Dean on succeeding to command of the 4th Battalion. Apart from his many other qualifications, Major Dean is the first V.C. officer to command the 4th Battalion.

Major H. B. Ternan has arrived home and has taken up his residence at 9 Emperors Gate, London, S.W.7.

Major G. Hickman, who is at present staying at Lisboa, Portugal, expects to arrive home this month.

Major F. W. Tomlinson has arrived home from Australia.

Major Howe, Lieut. and Quartermaster Martin and the advanced parties of the 1st Battalion for Lucknow and Chaubattia left Maymyo on March 9th. The married families, with Mr. R. F. Parry in charge, were due to sail from Rangoon for India on March 26th and 28th.

The following officers from the 1st Battalion expect to come home on leave this summer :—
Lieut.-Colonel F. Whitacre Allen, Brevet-Lieut.-Colonel H. de R. Morgan, Major G. Howe, Mr. P. Lewis and Lieut. and Quartermaster A. Martin.

Brevet-Major C. J. Wood has notified us that as from the 1st of this month his address will be "1st Battalion The Buffs, Lucknow."

Captain C. R. B. Knight's many friends will join us in regretting that he was not successful in obtaining the appointment of City Marshal. Captain Knight is, however, very much to be congratulated in getting into the last three out of some 200 applicants.

After this issue, and until further notice, Captain P. R. H. Fox will act as Editor of *The Dragon*, consequent on Colonel Findlay's resignation.

The latter would take this opportunity of thanking all those who have helped with copy, photographs, etc., as well as those who have subscribed to the paper. Particular mention must be made of the 1st and 2nd Battalions and the Depot.

It may interest readers to know that during the last eleven years, £2,050 profit has been transferred from *The Dragon* Account to the Past and Present Association Account.

Hearty congratulations to Captain Coates on winning the Regimental Race near Wokingham.

The crowd at Sandown for the Grand Military Meeting on 20th and 21st ultimo was the biggest we can remember. We had hoped to see Captain Coates win on the Saturday on "Orion," but though entered, he did not start.

Mr. P. Lynden-Bell has been ordered to Simla for special duty.

Mr. Raymond Grace has arrived home on leave.

We are very sorry to hear that Mr. Harris St. John has had to return from the Wa Boundary escort owing to illness. His place is being taken by Mr. Harwood.

We have recently heard from Mr. Wynn Kenrick, who is now living at Ruabon. It will be remembered what good work Mr. Wynn Kenrick did for the Deal Branch of our Association in the early days of that Branch.

We shall shortly have two new officers gazetted to our Supplementary Reserve—Mr. Wills and Mr. Lovett Cameron. Mr. Wills is an Oxford Running Blue and no mean cricketer. Mr. Lovett Cameron is a very keen horseman.

We much regret to report the death of Mr. G. W. Elvin, which occurred at Twickenham on March 12th. Mr. Elvin, who served for twenty years in the Regiment, was Bandmaster of the 1st Battalion.

The War Department Constabulary is taking over the police duties at the War Office for the Metropolitan Police on April 1st. One of the custodians of the War Office will be Police Constable A. Gibson, otherwise C.Q.M.S. Gibson.

We heartily congratulate C.S.M. Sidwell on the excellent job he has got, thanks to Mr. Vaughan, and we hope that R.S.M. Shoobridge will be equally fortunate.

Heartiest congratulations to the 2nd Battalion on winning The Army Cross Country Championship and the Aldershot Command Cross-Country Race.

Colonel H. Findlay was staying with Colonel Body for the Weald Annual Smoking Concert on March 14th. It was a very great success and we congratulate all those responsible. Colonel Body and Major Eric Clarke spoke well and very kindly.

The Dover Branch is also to be congratulated on their concert on the 13th ultimo. We think it must have been a record attendance. It was the Branch's hundredth meeting.

We hope that the formation of the four new infantry battalions will bring some badly-needed promotion to the Regiment.

London Branch.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mrs. Beatrice Bolton and offer our deep sympathy to Mr. Bolton and his family. An obituary notice appears on another page.

The London Branch Dinner on May 9th will be more of a Regimental Re-union as a great number of old Buff officers and other ranks have warned in.

Seating has been arranged for 700 at the Thames House Restaurant, Westminster, and an invitation is extended to all Branches to come along in good numbers. We want all Buff officers and other ranks, both Past and Present, to warn in. Tickets 5/6 from Captain J. E. Enright, 26 Doyle Road, S.W.17. Ladies are invited.

We recently had news of the brothers R. and W. Milford, late 6th and 8th Battalions respectively. Both served as well in the 2nd Battalion. Their best wishes to old friends.

Also from Lieut. V. Bouchier, Adjutant of the 1st Battalion, who says: "It is nice to hear so regularly about our men who return home. We out here wish them the best of luck and hope that "Civvy Street" will give them the same happiness as they found whilst serving."

We regret to say that Mr. Erny Dixon is shortly to undergo another operation—his eyes are giving him trouble. He will be remembered by many old 1st and 2nd Battalion members.

Many will remember Colonel H. G. Gregson, who in 1899 went out to South Africa with the 1st M.I. contingent. We are glad to know that he is well and hopes to meet many old friends on May 9th.

Our grateful thanks to Squadron-Leader Stewart, 600th Squadron, A.A.F., for informing Mr. Gordon Lindley of a vacancy which was successfully filled through the London Branch.

We are asked to give advance notice for diary purposes that the 6th (S) Battalion Re-union will be held this year on Saturday, October 10th. Warn in to Captain E. A. Carter, M.C., The Lodge, Welham Road, London, S.W.17.

Notice.

In view of the close relationship of our Colonel-in-Chief with the Royal Family and the fact that we are a Royal Regiment, it has been decided that the Dragon Club Dinner will not take place this year.

Obituary.

Mr. G. W. Elvin.

We regret to announce the death on March 11th of Mr. George William Elvin, one-time bandmaster of the 1st Battalion, The Buffs at the age of 62. Mr. Elvin had been ailing for some time past, but with his characteristic love of his work he refused to give in until, a week before his death, he was taken seriously ill.

He had had a long career in the army before going to Radley College, Abingdon, as music master. At the age of 11 years he joined the band of the South Wales Borderers, and was with them for 15 years, attaining the rank of sergeant. From there he went to Kneller Hall for four years, and passed his examinations as bandmaster to the 1st Battalion, The Buffs.

Mr. Elvin served with the Buffs for 20 years, being greatly loved by officers and men, and on leaving he received many gifts, that of the officers being a magnificent canteen of cutlery. He then went to Radley College as music master, and was connected with the O.T.C. there, endearing himself to all by reason of his kind and gentle nature. He was still there at the time of his death. He was due to retire in another three years.

(Twickenham Times).

Mrs. Beatrice Bolton.

The death of Mrs. Bolton has cast a gloom over the London Branch of the Past and Present Association and the London Ladies Guild. The late wife of Reg. No. 5504, R.S.M. (Cush) Bolton (at one time in the 1st Battalion soccer team), she endeared herself by her lovable nature and charming personality with all who came in contact with her. Soon after her marriage we find her at Worthing, where her husband was an instructor to the newly formed 8th Battalion. "She was more a second mother to us" said one of that battalion. Some months back she underwent a very serious operation which almost incapacitated the use of her right arm. Later, after discharge from hospital, she fell down the stairs of a bus, which so aggravated her condition, that she never recovered. Mrs. Bolton is now dead, but her memory will always remain a cherished possession. She was laid to rest at Streatham Park Cemetery on Wednesday, 18th March. The London Ladies' Guild were present at the graveside in large numbers, whilst the London Branch were represented by Captains E. A. Carter, M.C., J. E. Enright, Messrs. E. C. Ainge and E. Lamb. There were a great many floral tributes.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

- Benz.**—6285239 L/Cpl. A. Benz, H.Q., a daughter, Phyllis Margaret, born at Aldershot on 18/2/36.
- Crane.**—6136804 Sgt. S. Crane, "C", a daughter, Shirley Kathleen, born at Tooting on 27/2/36.
- Findlay.**—On March 21st, 1936, at 52 Hartington Road, W.4, to Winifred, wife of W. R. Findlay, a daughter.
- Mannall**—6282334 Pte. C. Mannall, "B", a son, Robert Charles, born at B.M.H., Maymyo on 3/1/36.

MARRIAGES.

Campbell—Clash.—6283498 L/Sgt. J. Campbell, "C", married to Ivy May Clash at Deal, Kent on 8/6/35.

Eltham—Conley.—6650451 Dmr. E. Eltham, H.Q., married to Dorothy Maud Conley at London on 7/3/36.

Gilbert—Johnson.—6284712 Pte. L. Gilbert, H.Q., married to Celia Johnson at London on 2/11/35.

Message—Cooper.—6282403 Cpl. F. Message, "B", married to Mercia Aileen Cooper at Maymyo on 2/1/36.

DEATH.

Mannell.—6282334 Pte. C. Mannell, "B", son, Robert Charles, died at British Family Hospital, Maymyo on 23/1/36.

ENGAGEMENTS.

Captain G. E. Sankey and Miss B. Stephenson.

The engagement is announced between Captain G. E. Sankey, M.C., The Buffs, and Betty, youngest daughter of the late Rev. John Arnold and Mrs. Stephenson, Mount House, Crawley Down.

Mr. Frank William Biscoe and Miss Ethel Dorothy Blann.

The engagement is announced between Frank William Biscoe, late 6281545, 1st Batt., son of Mr. George Thomas Biscoe, of Folkestone, and Ethel Dorothy Blann, of Southampton, Hants.

Matters of Interest.

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The War Office,
London, S.W.1.

27th February, 1936.

Territorial Army.

The latest returns show that during the month of January, 1936, 1,192 recruits were taken on the strength of the Territorial Army, compared with 1,698 in January, 1935.

The number of recruits obtained in each Command during January was as follows:—Eastern Command, 247; London District, 129; Northern Command, 172; Scottish Command, 199; Southern Command, 201, and Western Command, 244.

The total strength of the Territorial Army (other ranks) on 1st February, 1936, was 119,912; this is 1,145 less than on 1st January, 1936, and a decrease of 2,462 compared with the strength on 1st February, 1935.

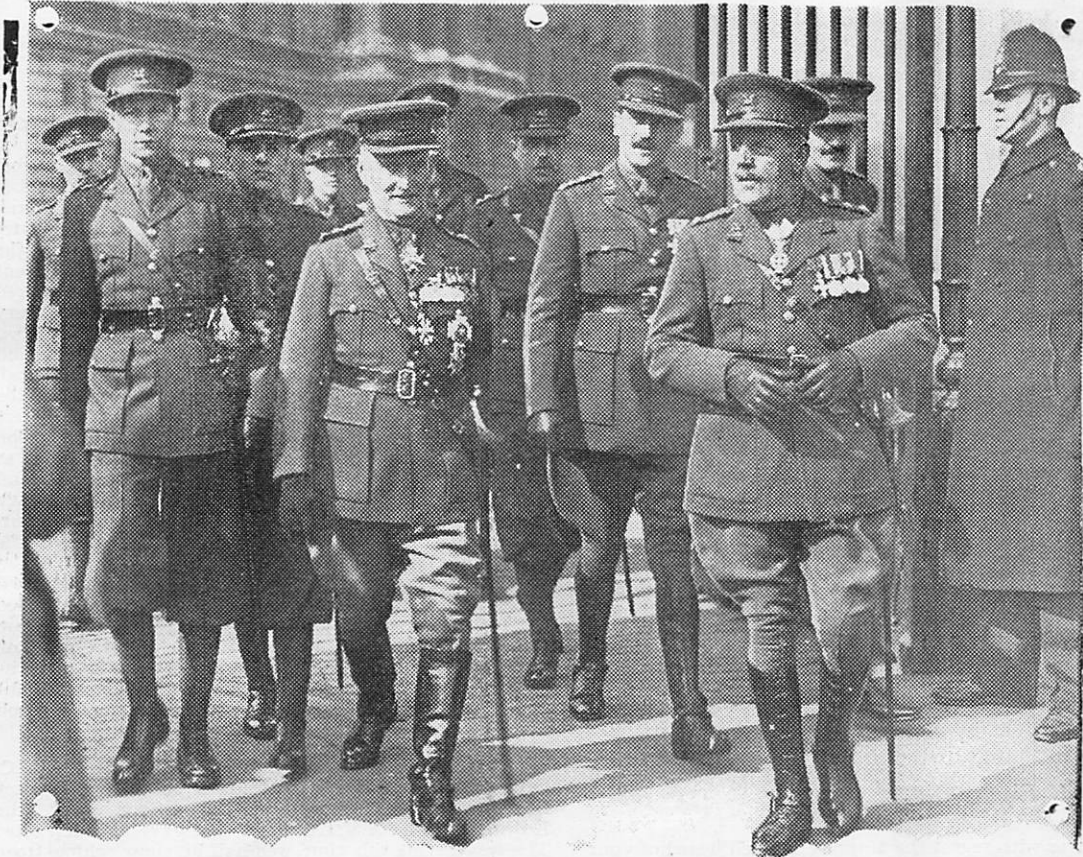
The strengths of the 13 Infantry Divisions on 1st February, 1936, were as follows (the corresponding figures on 1st January, 1936, being shown in brackets):—51st (Highland) Division, 8,172 (8,142); 50th (Northumbrian) Division, 7,961 (8,043); 53rd (Welsh) Division, 7,786 (7,865); 42nd (East Lancashire) Division, 7,555 (7,622); 43rd (Wessex) Division, 7,341 (7,411); 49th (West Riding) Division, 7,214 (7,277); 46th (North Midland) Division, 7,124 (7,164); 52nd (Lowland) Division, 6,856 (6,898); 55th (West Lancashire) Division, 6,850 (6,898); 48th (South Midland) Division, 6,752 (6,739); 44th (Home Counties) Division, 6,530 (6,653); 54th (East Anglian) Division, 6,136 (6,201); The London Division, 5,798 (5,869).

The number of officers of the Territorial Army on 1st February, 1936, was 7,252: this is a decrease of 12 during the month, and the number is 1,967 short of establishment.

Staff College.

The Colonel of the Regiment writes: The papers set at the recent examination for entrance to the Staff College, in obligatory subjects, strike us as very fair. No trick questions. The papers in voluntary subjects present rather a different problem. They are designed with the object of preventing candidates with only a superficial knowledge of the subject from making any marks, and we fancy these recent papers will achieve this object. The lesson seems to be that unless a candidate has some special qualifications for a nomination such as having been Adjutant, an Instructor at the R.M.C., etc., he must sit down and seriously work up his three voluntary subjects, of which not more than two may be languages.

At the Levée.



]Kent Messenger.

2/Lieut. G. R. D. Hews. Lieut. B. H. Graig.
 2/Lieut. A. S. K. Anderson.
 2/Lieut. D. G. Walker. Capt. T. R. Reid. Capt. G. R. B. Oliver.
 Major Gen. Sir A. Lt.-Col. A. B.
 Lynden Bell. Thomson.

Correspondence.

31 Victoria Road,
 Leytonstone, E.11.
 10th March, 1936.

Colonel Findlay,
 Past and Present Association,
 Depot, The Buffs, Canterbury.

Sir,

It is with great regret that I report no success with the Kent County Police on the grounds of my physical measurements not being up to the required standard.

I must apologise, Sir, for having caused avoidable trouble to you, but should like to excuse myself as, when last measured in the Army—particularly with an eye towards Police requirements—my height was recorded as being 5 ft. 10 ins., and chest 36 ins.

By taking a Physical Training Course I hope to be able, in two months, to increase my height another half inch and I am positive I can add a further two inches to my chest measurement.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank you, Sir, for having taken so much fruitless bother on my account. Once more thanking you.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
 Obediently Yours,
 G. S. Lehan.

5 Foxenden Road,
 Guildford, Surrey.

12th March, 1936.

Dear Captain Enright,

Many thanks for *Dragon* (March number). Although I have only been in England just over six weeks, it's quite good to read about what is happening abroad in the 1st Battalion, to read about the Buffs that are carrying on, where we, now of the past, have left off.

I am glad to hear that Birch, Milne (Major), Flemming (Ghandi) and Osborne have been fixed up with employment, through the London Branch. It is sure proof to everyone of what good the Past and Present Association does do.

Thanks for sending me Flemming's address, we have already started regular correspondence with one another, needless to say, his first letter to me was all about his job and nothing but that. He is certainly fixed up for life.

As you can see by my address, I am living at Guildford. I am getting on fine with my job, I am now in the Signal and Telegraph Department on the Southern Railway.

Will try and get up to London for Annual Dinner on May 9th.

Best wishes to all Buffs, past and present, from,

Yours sincerely,
F. W. BISCOE,
Late Pte. 6281545,
"B" Company, 1st Battalion.

Sandwich.

15th March, 1936.

Col. H. Findlay, C.B.E.

Dear Sir,

It is with regret that we learn of your retirement as General Secretary, on March 31st, and I am instructed to convey to you the sincere thanks and appreciation of the members of this Branch, for the great help you have given us at all times, and wish you every success and good luck in your new appointment.

Yours faithfully,
HORACE TAYLOR,
Hon. Secretary.

Westgate-on-Sea.

Colonel H. Findlay, C.B.E.

Dear Sir,

It was with regret the Margate Branch heard of your resignation from the Secretaryship of our Association, and we wish to tender to you our sincere thanks for the very great service you have rendered the Past and Present during your years of office, especially our own Branch.

That you may enjoy good health in the years to come is the sincere wish of all members of the Margate Branch.

I am, Sir,
Yours sincerely,
P. MOSS.

London, N.4.

Dear Capt. Enright,

Just a line thanking you very much for the £2 you sent me. I cannot tell you how thankful I am, I cannot write how I feel, I am too full to be able to thank you enough.

I was so worried, because all the boys' boots had been letting water and I did not know how I was going to get them mended, but thanks to you Captain, we are able to take them to be done. It is so kind of you all to think about the boys and me.

The meat was so nice on Sunday, we had the rest of it to-day, it was fine. I thank you very much.

The boys hope you are better than you have been and send their best wishes to you and also Mrs. Enright.

I am sending receipt and thanking you very much indeed,

I am,
Yours truly,

A Visit to the Army Vocational Training Centre at Chisleton.

I LEFT Bordon on the evening of February 10th, to be attached to our affiliated unit at Aldershot. That reminds me; I did not know who our affiliated unit at Aldershot was, so I asked various Sergeants, and received reasonable replies until I asked our Provost Sergeant, and then I had a shock. He told me that it was the "Queen's Own Rifles of Canada." I wondered if they were over here to be with us for training once again, but Orderly Room put me right. It was the Norfolks, who had all plans cut and dried. I went into their Mess and was greeted with "Have you had your supper?"—"What'll you have to drink?" Very nice. I was then shown my bunk; a nice fire, bed made down, so that all I had to do was to prepare and get into it. The policeman on duty gave me a call 45 minutes before Reveille. I had breakfast in the Mess and then away to Command Headquarters where a representative from each Unit of the 1st Division plus three from the Cavalry were ordered to meet at 7 a.m. on the 11th February. We met, stood and shivered in the cold wind until the bus arrived. We soon got aboard, checked up and found we were present, so set off, in this luxury bus; but they forgot the travelling rugs. Maybe they know soldiers. We had a nice trip, but a cold one. About half way we attacked and captured a Café, open night and day. We demanded hot tea, which was enjoyed by all and then away again to somewhere on Salisbury Plain. We found Chisleton, but almost passed the turning. I think it was the Belisha Beacons placed on this corner that attracted our attention. By the way, these beacons were a good mile from any enclosed area.

At 10 a.m. approx. we got off the bus at the A.V.T.C. Orderly Room. We were told to go to the Poultry Section Lecture Room and wait. Soon after, the Adjutant of the A.V.T.C. came and gave us a few tips. The weather at this time was hail or snow which froze on landing. We all wondered if we could get back to Aldershot, then the Adjutant told us all the roads were ice-bound and we should have to stay the night. The majority were not in favour of this.

I will endeavour to put briefly what the Adjutant said about trades taught at the Centre—Plumbing, Carpentry and Joinery, Boot Repairing, Gardening, Poultry Farming, Painting and Decorating, Sign-writing, Plastering, Electric Wiring, Pig Farming, Farming, Dairy, Bricklaying, Gardener Chauffeur, Nurseryman. The Adjutant's comments on each trade were as follows:—

PLUMBING.—Not many students, but very good prospects of a job in civil life. A big demand for them.

CARPENTER AND JOINER.—Clean job, fair prospects in civil life but not long enough course to turn out real first class tradesmen.

BOOT REPAIRING.—This he said was alright in civil life as a side-line. Not good prospects unless a man had capital. The machines required would cost between £30 and £40 and it is essential to have these to get a living.

GARDENING.—A job that will not die out, but the time was not long enough to teach students all about it. Lectures had to cover what could not be done practically. Not good prospects owing to it being a job maintained in the family; in other words, father teaches his son and makes sure he gets a job with the same firm.

POULTRY FARMING.—Here men are taught to be good Poultrymen and for those who have enough capital to have their own chicken farm and make a living from it, prospects are good if a man takes interest and learns all he can. A man needs to be really intelligent and to take the course seriously.

PAINTING, DECORATING AND SIGNWRITING.—This is practically a summer job and at present not a demand for this trade.

PLASTERING.—The Adjutant didn't say much about this. The Instructor said he could find a job for as many plasterers as he liked to produce.

ELECTRIC WIRING.—A fair prospect in civil life.

PIG FARMING.—The same as for Poultry Farming. Capital is required or one must be a Pig Farming Hand until one has proved one's worth.

FARMING.—Being winter and the ground covered in ice, no work was being done. But of course we know this needs capital unless one goes as a Farm Hand.

DAIRY.—Men didn't like this because of the early rising, but prospects are fair.

BRICKLAVING.—Prospects fair, but only as an improver.

GARDENER CHAUFFEUR.—This has apparently mistaken a lot of men. It appears that so many put in to become Motor Mechanics and that there isn't enough vacancies so the men take Gardener Chauffeur, thinking they will be taught all about a car, but they find that at the A.V.T.C. they have them five months on Gardening and one month on the car. They only teach how to drive, mend a puncture and wash the car.

NURSERYMAN.—Fair prospects in civil life, but they cannot turn out really first class men owing to insufficient time.

After the talk we were divided up into two parties and started our tour.

The party I was with headed for the Piggery. We saw about a dozen sows with their piglings, piglets or whatever they are called. Each litter was of different ages, the idea being that they do not all become selling weight at the same time. In another part of the Piggery they keep the piglets after weaning to fatten them. Once they are a certain weight they are sold. The A.V.T.C. have a contract to supply a firm with 20 pigs a month. They are proud of the fact that several that are supplied are Grade A. Don't ask me what Grade A is; I don't know.

We then went to the Plasterers. This was interesting and I should think that a good plasterer could make a good living. The Instructor was very good in explaining it all to us. It appears that one can purchase Plasterer's Iron moulds at about £8 each, but he said that a good plasterer makes his own from wood. We saw all types, rough plastering, ceilings, walls, and ornamental things for the garden.

We then walked into the next hut and saw the students doing some electrical wiring. They commence with a simple circuit on a board, and are allowed to connect up to the power and see the results. Later they have to put a light into a room, finishing the job properly. The Instructor said that the students after doing this give a sigh of relief if the light actually comes on when they put the switch down.

From the Electrical Wiring we should have gone to the Dairy, but we decided to have dinner, which the Sergeants' Mess kindly had ready for us. When I entered the Mess I met Tom Vale. I asked him what he was doing and he said his course was Gardening. I mentioned that he couldn't do much work with the ground covered with ice, and his reply was that they

took turns in stoking up the fire from 8 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. I wondered if after stoking the fire they took turns in sitting by it.

After dinner, we strolled to the Dairy. We didn't see much here owing to the cows being out to lunch. I noticed that each cow has a name, each name commencing with the letter "A," and on the name plate it gave the date of birth or date bought, also showing the amount of milk it has supplied. Notices hung about giving tips to obtain Grade "A" Milk. Clean hands, clean cows, clean sheds and clean utensils seemed to be the main mixture for Grade "A" Milk.

From here we headed for the Camp again, and we met the Poultry Farm Instructor. He told us a lot, and started by saying that it wasn't any good starting Poultry Work unless one was prepared to work hard and learn all there was being taught. The Lecture Room had a lot of exhibits and I found that starting from one particular spot they represent the syllabus of training the student had. We went into the Incubating Room. Each student has an Incubator which holds about 120 eggs. He is handed the eggs and he has to check and inspect them and put them into the incubator. The eggs are turned twice a day and the student is responsible for keeping the lamps trimmed and in working order. We then went into the Chick Room. Here the chicks are kept in small pens until they are a certain age. In the cold weather they have hurricane lamps burning all round and brooders to keep them warm. From the Chick Room we went outside and were shown the Sun Parlour House, where the chicks are put. Apparently they won't put them out on the soil until they are so many weeks old; then they are transferred to the big houses on the land. We saw the Big Houses which had from 100 to 150 birds in. One of these housed 113 birds and the instructor said that they were getting 90 eggs a day from that particular house. The most collected in one day was 99. He was beginning to get "wind up," because he had bet the student, who was in charge of the house, a bob, that he would not collect 100 eggs in one day.

Next we saw the fattening crates. I understand the birds are kept in these for about 14 days before being killed for sale. These crates are kept near to the hut which is divided into the Killing Room, Plucking Room, and finally the Dressing Room. (The Students also make all coops, etc., from rough wood.) The sale for Poultry at Chisleton at present is not great.

After this interesting tour round the Poultry Section we decided to have a look at the Garden under the Glass (this was a warmer spot). Here it was interesting. The Instructor informed us that the houses were full of lettuce, which we saw. These are planted in such a manner that the stock becomes ready for sale for a considerable period. Each row has about 10 plants and the instructor said that each row would sell for 2/6 in about a fortnight's time. Later on, Tomatoes are planted between the lettuce. I think the lettuce and tomatoes are sold for the greater part of the year from these houses. Over 700 lbs. of tomatoes were sold from one house alone, last year. Chrysanthemums are also grown and the flowers sold at a good profit.

From here, we found another warm spot. We went to the Flower and Small Plant Section. The flowers were wonderful, the place was full of bloom. I cannot give the names of them, there were so many. We saw the Tomato plants, each plant in a small pot. The seeds were planted on Armistice Day, 1935. The Instructor told us they had taken a good number of prizes at various shows last year. They had some young fruit trees that were going to an exhibition very soon. All the nursing, etc., is done by students.

The next place we visited was the Boot Repairing Shop. There were about 12 men working in one room.

They had commenced that day. They were all removing old soles from boots. One old soldier was using a hammer and chisel trying to move a piece of wood that had been put into a hole prior to the nails being put in. After striking the chisel several times as hard as he could and not having any effect on the piece of wood, he decided to use pliers and pull it out. When he did this the wood almost fell out. This 'tickled' several of the visitors. Anyway, they were all working hard and doing their best. The instructor then took us into the next room, where the students were more or less left on their own to carry out repairs. The work was very neat. Some were nailing the soles on and some were sewing soles on by hand. These students had been there 4 months. They repair Boots and Shoes for the civilians for a large area around Chisleton, and also for two Battalions of Infantry and the Corps at Bulford.

Next we saw the Signwriters. About 10 students were busy signwriting on canvas or paper. It was being done very neatly. They were nearly all doing the name of some hotel. We saw the rooms that had been decorated by the students. They looked very nice; a number of pictures had been painted on the panels. These were very neat. A number of Badges of various Units were painted on glass, all done by students.

Into the next hut we hurried as time was flying. Here we found the plumbers, all busy repairing something. In their showroom we saw all kinds of piping done artistically with lead, also ornaments, pots for plants, but these were very heavy. I asked a very fat Sergeant of a Scottish Regiment to lift one to take to Aldershot. I thought he would burst; he puffed and grunted for a while and eventually lifted it about an inch. He decided not to take it to Aldershot.

The next hut was closed. I think the Carpenters were on strike, they were not working in the Hut. Maybe they were all 'out' on jobs.

Our time was almost up to meet the Adjutant, so we just had a look at the Bricklayers, who were 'knocking off.'

After meeting the Adjutant, away to the Mess for tea. On our way we called in the Acetylene Welding Shop. They were busy repairing a large hinge of a door which had been broken by the wind during the previous night. This shop had only been in use for a short time, acetylene welding having only recently started at Chisleton. Students were working on various small jobs and seemed to be interested.

At 4.30 p.m. the 'Hooter' sounded, and men came pouring from all the huts heading for the Dining Room. I asked a Student how many would be in to tea and he said "About 500 in Mess." He said that they had good food and plenty of it.

After tea we got to the bus as quick as possible to get a seat, because two of the party would have to stand and we were all determined not to be one of those two. After checking and finding we were complete, we set off for Aldershot, after a very interesting tour.

Everyone was determined to let us know that all the work was done by the students. This we could see quite plainly, because the Instructors were all nice and clean, whereas the students showed signs of work in a good number of cases.

The Instructors seemed a nice lot of chaps and "showed willing" to assist the Students all they could.

G.A.C.

The Past and Present Association.

DONATIONS.

During the period 18/2/36 to 18/3/36 the following donations have been gratefully received:—

	£	s.	d.
Major F. W. Foster	0	1	0
Mrs. D. Knight	1	0	0
Mrs. Pardington	0	6	0

DISBURSEMENTS.

During the period 18/2/36 to 18/3/36 the following disbursements have been made:—

	£	s.	d.
Feb. 21. Grant	0	10	0
21. Grant	1	10	0
21. Grant	1	0	0
24. Grant	1	0	0
26. Grant	3	0	0
28. Grant	0	15	0
Mar. 5. Grant	1	0	0
5. Grant	2	0	0
6. Grant	2	0	0
10. Grant	2	0	0
12. Grant	4	0	0
12. Grant	1	10	0

NEW MEMBERS.

Life Members.—Captain I. W. Barber, M.C., M.B.E.; I./Cpls. J. Blair, J. Hannaford, C. King; Privates S. Ingham, J. Bligh, J. Pullen, A. Woolford, F. Allsopp, H. Ashby, F. Burton, J. Chidwick, J. Dempsey, T. Eldridge, R. Fordham, A. Fuller, V. Gibbs, D. Hills, N. Hogben, E. Holley, C. Hughes, C. Huskisson, A. King, J. King, J. Kelly, J. Rowe, A. Slater, S. Sharp, J. Smith, H. Waller, F. Wooding, B. Young.

Annual Members.—Messrs. F. Wilmott, C. Barth, W. T. Hopkins, S. Pearson, G. Newing, J. Chesson, J. C. West.

Branch Meetings, April.

- April 11. Ashford (Drill Hall).
- 18. London (Prince Alfred Restaurant).
- 10. Dover (Friendly Societies' Institute).
- 25. Medway (Unity Club).
- 3. Sittingbourne (Drill Hall).
- 24. Ramsgate (Drill Hall).
- 8. Margate (Drill Hall).
- 3. Canterbury (Rhodaus Town).
- 14. Herne Bay Sub-Branch (Druid's Head and Drill Hall).
- 14. Folkestone (Drill Hall).
- 17. Sandwich (Rifle Range).
- 7. Deal (Working Men's Club, West Street).

Fixtures, 1936.

- April 4. Herne Bay Annual Supper.
- 4. Hythe Branch Annual General Meeting.
- 18. 7th Battalion Dinner.
- 25. 2/5th Battalion Dinner.
- May 9. London Branch Dinner and Dance.
- June 7. March to Cenotaph.
- 28. Wrotham Picnic.
- Aug. 9. Service of Remembrance.

Shooting.

Herewith results of Monthly Postal Shoot for the month of February, 1936. Best six counting:—

Ashford	...	...	...	589
Dover	...	...	...	583
Depot	...	...	...	581
Sittingbourne	...	...	...	577
Sandwich	...	...	...	551
Margate	...	...	...	541
2nd Battalion	...	...	...	533

DETAILS:—

ASHFORD.		SITTINGBOURNE.	
Mr. Lambkin	... 100	Mr. A. Sinclair	... 100
Mr. Gascoine	... 98	Mr. Girvan	... 99
Mr. Avis	... 98	Mr. Muir	... 99
Mr. Harrison	... 98	Mr. Munden	... 98
Mr. Ellington	... 98	Mr. Hardy	... 98
Mr. Hogben	... 97	Mr. J. Scott	... 83
	589		577

DOVER.		SANDWICH.	
Mr. Mead	... 96	Mr. Crouch	... 93
Mr. Mace	... 99	Mr. Harlow	... 92
Mr. Hallam	... 98	Mr. A. Elvy	... 91
Mr. Tripp	... 97	Mr. Bennett	... 90
C.S.M. Sidwell	... 97	Mr. Speare	... 89
Mr. Palter	... 96	Mr. Stroud	... 86
	583		551

DEPOT.		MARGATE.	
Sgt. Hoskins	... 99	Mr. Jarman	... 97
L/Cpl. Wight	... 99	Mr. Moss	... 95
L/Cpl. Sutton	... 98	Mr. Kennett	... 92
Cpl. Blake	... 97	Mr. Gore	... 89
Pte. Baron	... 94	Mr. Stuart	... 82
Sgt. Glazier	... 94	Mr. Sankey	... 76
	581		541

2ND BATTALION.

Sgt. Osborne	...	...	92
Cpl. Howe	...	...	91
C.S.M. Trice	...	...	90
S.I.M. Fletcher	...	...	86
C.Q.M.S. Field	...	...	88
Cpl. Berry	...	...	86
			533

Ashford Branch.

On Saturday, March 7th, the monthly meeting was held at the Drill Hall. Captain A. C. Crothall presided.

Owing to Mr. J. E. King having resigned the chairmanship of this branch the most important piece of business at this meeting was the election of a chairman. Nominations were called for, but the only nomination forthcoming was that of Mr. F. H. Harrison. Mr. Harrison was, therefore, unanimously elected chairman of this branch.

Captain Crothall paid tribute to the work that Mr. King had done during his term of office. He felt sure that Mr. Harrison would prove a worthy successor. He congratulated him most heartily and assured him that if at any time he could be of assistance to him he would be only too glad to help in every possible way.

Mr. Harrison thanked Captain Crothall for his remarks and thanked the members for electing him. He assured them that with their support he would do his utmost to carry out his duties to the satisfaction of them all.

On Saturday, March 14th, a party from this branch went over to Cranbrook where we were entertained to a splendid Smoking Concert by the members of The Weald Branch. We were very pleased to meet Colonel Body—looking very fit again—Colonel H. Findlay, Major Clarke, Captain Lloyd Hardcastle, Captain Boulding and many other old comrades. We were entertained by a splendid concert party and everyone enjoyed themselves. Our best thanks are due to The Weald Branch for the splendid manner in which they entertained us.

Will all members please note that our May meeting will be held on Saturday, May 16th, instead of the 9th, as many members wish to attend the London Branch Dinner which is being held on that date.

T.H.H.

LADIES' GUILD.

Our monthly meeting was held at The Drill Hall on Wednesday, March 11th. Mrs. King presided.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

We have one member on the sick list, Mrs. Lee, we wish her a speedy recovery.

We have definitely decided to hold our summer meetings on the second Wednesday in each month. So will our Vice-Presidents' please note, as we shall not notify except through *The Dragon*.

Our thanks are due to Mrs. Hopkins, who presented us with a child's knitted suit, to be sold. Also to Miss Coleman for finishing a small knitted coat, it to be sold too. During the afternoon the raffle, sent by Mrs. E. Wright, of London, was won by Mrs. King.

K.E.S.

London Branch.

Another very fine meeting of the branch was held on the 21st ultimo. The continued illness of Captain E. Smith necessitated the Vice-Chairman, Mr. E. C. Ainge, having to again preside.

DEATHS.—The members stood in silence to the memories of the following recently dead:—

Major-General B. Mitford, Bandmaster Joe Elvin, Mr. W. Hetherington, Mrs. Beatrice Bolton.

Mr. Gordon Lindley, M.C., spoke in eulogistic terms respecting the late General Mitford and the late Mrs. Bolton. Respecting the former, he said that many in the room would remember the early days of the 8th Battalion when top-hats and rags stood next to each other on parade and how General Mitford was keen to see us develop and become a great fighting unit of his—and our—regiment. As a schoolboy at "Wellington" he knew the late General Mitford and it was he who was the means of getting him gazetted to the Buffs. Mr. Lindley told those present that at the battle of Loos in September, 1915, when the fighting was thickest, there stood General Mitford within 600 yards of the heavily fortified enemy front line and on either side more strongly fortified points. He was a real Buff—a great soldier—a stout fighter. His interest in the regiment never for a moment ceased and he was never so happy as when he attended the 8th Battalion re-union dinners—not as G.O.C. of his old Brigade, but as a Buff.

Regarding Mrs. Bolton, he felt all who knew her, would mourn with Mr. Bolton and his family. The originals of the 8th Battalion well remember "Cushey" and they also remember his late wife. Mrs. Bolton was a second mother to many of the battalion in those early days. She, too, was a great Buff—a staunch member of the Ladies' Guild and a lady whose memory shall never fade.

MINUTES.—The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence and messages were received from Major-General Sir Arthur Lynden Bell, Captain E. Smith (Chairman), Brig.-Gen. L. Porter, Colonels Gregson, Bradley Dyne, Trevor, Friend, Findlay, Captains T. O. Cook, Baird, Mrs. Brook, Major James, Messrs. Erny Dixon, A. Cole, Manning, The Ashford Branch, Hugh Borland, etc., etc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.—The Chairman made several announcements respecting forthcoming events.

OUR CHAIRMAN.—The news of the resignation from the Chair of Captain E. Smith, consequent upon his continued illness, was keenly felt by all present. It was understood that to ask him to reconsider his resignation would not be fair to him as it was well-known by the Committee how he had carried on his job under very trying and difficult circumstances. The Branch President, Major Keown, also spoke in terms of praise of the work Captain Smith had done. It was proposed by Mr. Benny Field and seconded by Mr. E. Lamb, that the resignation of Captain Smith be accepted with the deepest regret. Mr. C. Vaughan proposed that a suitable letter of thanks be written to Captain Smith on behalf of the London Branch for his past services. Carried unanimously.

It was announced that nominations for the new Chairman would be called for in next Branch news.

WELCOME.—The following attending for the first time were given a hearty welcome:—C.Q.M.S. Baker, late 2nd Battalion; C.S.M. Sidwell, late 2nd Battalion; Mr. Mangleshott, late 1st Battalion; Mr. Beeching, late 2nd Battalion.

AT RANDOM.—The meeting over, chin wagging at once commenced, and although we had our ladies with us, I think the menfolk easily won. In fact, to try and sing a song interfered with the talking and the singers emphatically declared it was the reverse. Next Ladies Night we are bringing along a mallet and a gentle "tap" occasionally we feel sure will have the desired effect. Buffy Ward (7th) kept the piano going and Mrs. Buxton contributed in her old style, reminding one of the old concert parties in the Battalion. Of course, Mr. Linzell (8th) surprised us all by giving, I think, one of Alec Hurley's or Gus Elen's famous coxer songs. Eddie Shute (8th) kept us in laughter over a set of humorous yarns—don't quite know how he remembers them all. Harry Jacobs told one or two good ones as well (sorry, that was downstairs). The real titbit was "Scotty," who again whirled his feet and legs like a two year old, much to the delight of the ladies—of course, some ladies think men cannot step dance—don't know why? Wait until next time, when Joe Green does a flutter on the table and impersonates Harry Towse trying to start a motor car. Colonel Guy Lee was observed early in the evening, but unfortunately had to get away before the fun started. We noticed a Scripture Reader hovering around Prince Alfred selling tracts for Barrack Rooms—several members purchased large quantities—I wonder why? It was a welcome sight to see Toby Farrow, Sidwell, Charley Vaughan, R.S.M. Evans and other old timers, such as Captain Carter, Spud Austin, Donkey Warren, Molly Marshall, Molkinthin in a group going ninety to the dozen over glasses of grape fruit. So nice—they never drink anything else. It was a greater pleasure to have with us Mangleshott, the celebrated boxer, who had only just arrived home. It will be remembered that Mangleshott was the first winner of the London Branch Gold Medal given to the 1st Battalion. With him were Raffles Mills, Beeching, Scott, Osborne, Kelly and many others recently T.X. I spotted one table with Erny Waters, Hems, Eddy Shute, Albert Debling, Ivens and others evidently talking about the old 8th Battalion days; in another part there were Messrs. Philpot, Blacker, Williams of the 6th, whilst Captain Harry Fine and Mr. Neale Dalton were busily engaged with the 7th. Our old Zulu warrior, Mr. Arthur Brown, was again in attendance, also the 5th M.I.—you know, the backbone of General French's Cavalry who rode all the way to Bloemfontein without getting any blisters on the feet. Gunner Lee whispered in my ear, "36 years ago on the 10th of March, me and Erny Carter got out packets." Well do I remember—I busted the emergency ration and gave away a tin of soft tobacco for a discount. Most of us, however, forgot somehow, the 21st March—I looked at Captain Fine, he remembered, and we spoke about the days we spent on the Polish border in the Fortress of Groudez.

J.E.F.

Functions.

FORTHCOMING DINNERS.

7TH (S) BATTALION, THE BUFFS.—London on April 18th, at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden Lane, Strand, W.C.2. Tickets, 4/6, from the Dinner Secretary, 191 Hall Lane, Chingford, Essex.

2/5TH BATTALION, THE BUFFS.—London on Cup Final night, April 25th. Details from Mr. F. G. Skinner, Westminster Bank, 21 Lombard Street, E.C.3.

LONDON BRANCH DINNER, PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATION, THE BUFFS.—London, on May 9th, at the Thames House Restaurant, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. Tickets, 5/6, from Capt. J. E. Enright, 26 Doyle Road, S.W.17.

6TH (S) BATTALION, THE BUFFS.—London, October 10th. Warn in to Captain E. A. Carter, M.C., The Lodge, Welham Road, London, S.W.17.

8TH (S) BATTALION, THE BUFFS.—London, possibly in November, on the evening of the day Major-General Sir Arthur Capper deposits a wreath on the 24th Division Memorial. Mr. J. G. Scott, 12 Pleasance Road, Roehampton, London, S.W.15.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

CENOTAPH PARADE.—London, June 7th. Fall in on Horse Guards' Parade, at 2.30 p.m. March to Cenotaph where wreath will be deposited by the Colonel of the Regiment. Tea at Hill's Restaurant.

WROTHAM PICNIC.—Sunday, June 28th, in field kindly lent by Mr. Percy Minter, O.B.E.

BELGIUM HOLIDAY.—Blankenberghe from 15th to 29th August. Total cost from London, 4/6 7s. 6d. Branches invited to participate. Captain J. E. Enright, 26 Doyle Road, London, S.W.17.

LADIES' GUILD.

The monthly tea meeting was held on March 4th at The Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster. Mrs. Keown (Vice-President) was given a very hearty welcome, also Mrs. Chichester, who had been absent for a long period owing to her husband's illness; it was pleasing to know he was making progress to recovery. Both members had to leave before the business, so Mrs. Chichester played the Regimental March to which all stood at attention.

MINUTES.—The minutes for month of February were read and signed.

WELCOME.—The Chairman (Mrs. Spinner) welcomed three new members, Miss Messenger, Mrs. Kebbll, and Mrs. Baker, who has recently left the 2nd Battalion.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Letters were received from the following:—Mrs. Cookenden and Mrs. Guy Lee (Vice-Presidents), Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Hart (Portland), Captain Smith and Mr. Adams.

REGRETS.—Regretting inability to be present: Mrs. Warren, Mrs. and Miss Cudlip.

GREETINGS.—Best wishes were sent by the Colonel of the Regiment, Mrs. A. B. Thomson (2nd Battalion), Major and Mrs. James, and Mrs. Albury (Canterbury), Mrs. Mott, Mrs. Rennisson, Captain Philip Backhouse (daughters and son of the late Colonel and Mrs. Backhouse), and Mrs. Hamilton.

SICK.—Our sick list is still on the increase, and we wish all a speedy return to health. Our Guild President is suffering from a rheumatic shoulder, Mrs. Neale Dalton (Vice-President) in hospital, Mrs. Carey (scalded foot), Mrs. Bolton, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Dixon ill in their homes.

OBITUARY.—It was with much regret the members heard that Mrs. Adams had passed over, the Guild were represented at the funeral, and a wreath placed on their behalf.

LONDON BRANCH.—Members were invited to the London Branch Social on Saturday, 21st, at 8.30, after the meeting.

DINNER.—It was again brought to the notice of the members that the London Branch Dinner was being held at Thames House on May 9th. Tickets 5/6.

RAFFLES.—Mrs. Keown very kindly gave a chicken to be raffled, which realised 10/10, and won by Mrs. Clover; also a mystery raffle from Mrs. Huntley (Ashford), realising 2/11, and won by Mrs. Baker.

THE KING.—Mrs. Towse spoke of our wonderful association and said she thought we might sing "The King" as we were all loyal, and after all we were "Royal Buffs"; suggestions from members as to when we should do so; it was unanimously agreed directly after the close of the meeting as several members left then.

WHIST DRIVE.—The usual short whist drive took place after the meeting, Mrs. Lamb and Miss Messenger giving the prizes. Our very grateful thanks to the donors of raffles and whist prizes.

D.E.S.

Dover Branch.

On March 13th the branch celebrated their 100th monthly meeting with a "bumper" smoking concert, which, needless to say, was a great success from start to finish.

A very large muster attended this parade, about 70 being present, including a party of very old "Buffs" from the Poor Law Institute, by kind permission of the Master.

The chair was taken by Lieut.-Colonel J. Crookenden, D.S.O., who wished the assembled company a very happy evening. The arrival, at this point, of the General Secretary (Col. H. Findlay) was the signal for still more rousing cheers and "Kentish Fire." This great welcome only went to show how very much Col. Findlay's visits are appreciated by the members of this branch, also it was a very fitting welcome to the one who took the chair at the inaugural meeting when this branch was formed on the 18th November, 1927. There was also quite a good muster of officers and other ranks who were at, and joined the branch, at this first meeting.

The following resolution was unanimously carried: "That this branch learns with deep regret of Col. Findlay's resignation, which is considered a very great loss to the Association. They unanimously tender to him their deep sense of gratitude for his inestimable services to the Association in the past, without which it could never have attained the success it has."

The evening came to a close all too quickly at that wretched hour "by Act of Parliament," but everyone deemed it a "mighty success," for which our sincere and hearty thanks are due to our old friend, Mr. F. Evans and his little band of untiring workers for all arrangements made, which left nothing to be said, only—

Good Old Dewberry—sez you!

The following members contributed to the programme, and to all we would say thanks; all items were much appreciated, especially "Old Sam" and his "Firelock"; Mr. (Chips) Wood, on the musical box (piano); Mr. Jarvis, Mr. Turner, Mr. A. Smallwood, Mr. A. Steel, and Mr. Jarvis and Mr. Turner in a "Do it."

We must not forget our two lady friends (Vi and another). To them a "special" thank you, kind ladies, for their "Old-time Melodies," which helped some of the old boys along—in fact, I did hear that some were still singing them when they got home?

Before the concert commenced, the Chairman announced the death of Mr. (Joe) Elvin, late B.M. of the 1st Battalion. The company stood in silence for one minute.

Four new members were introduced to the Chairman and members during the evening, Messrs. Drury, Holmes, Newing and Watts, jun.

C.

LADIES' GUILD.

We held our annual meeting on March 12th, and the Branch has had a very successful year. Our balance at the Bank is £39/17/9, perhaps not quite so large as in previous years, but we have done more for those of our members who are in want.

Mrs. Sidwell has left Dover, which is a great loss to the branch. She has worked hard for us and we are very grateful to her and wish both she and her husband every success in their new work, and hope to see them sometimes at the London Branch.

We welcome Mrs. Saunders to this branch and hope her stay with us may be a happy one.

We held our Children's Party on March 18th in the Drill Hall and think both children and grown-ups enjoyed themselves. Tea was at 5 o'clock and all had paper hats and musical toys and crackers. Then came a few games, followed by conjuring and a Punch and Judy show. Every child had a present, and Major and Mrs. Foster gave them each an orange and a bag of sweets. Our very grateful thanks to all who gave us cakes, etc., and who came to help.

It was a very great pleasure to see Mrs. Millington again.

Weald Branch.

Appreciation of the good fellowship which exists between the various branches and all ranks of the Buffs' Regiment, formed the key-note of the speeches at the annual smoking concert of the Weald Branch of the Buffs, Past and Present Association, at the Drill Hall, Cranbrook, on Saturday.

Not only was it a night of happy re-union, but a night of happy reminiscences. Old timer E. M. Dungey, of Ticehurst, could not help telling them of soldiering in the "good old days" of 1886, when he first joined the Buffs.

"Why, being in the Army in these days is as good as being at home," said he. "When I first joined, our breakfast, for instance, used to consist of tea without any sugar or milk and just dry bread."

It was men like old timer Dungey that have helped to build up the fine traditions of the Buffs, and so the company drank his health—a Buff 50 years ago, apparently the oldest in the room.

But this is where old Soldier F. Butchers, of Horsmonden, came in.

"He's not the oldest here," he said. "I joined the Buffs in 1882."

So the company drank to him—a Buff 54 years ago!

Colonel John Body, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., who led the Buffs in Mesopotamia, presided and about 125 members were present.

"THE COLONEL OF THE BUFFS."

After the loyal toast, Colonel Body proposed the health of "The Colonel of The Buffs," and paid a glowing tribute to all that Major-General Sir Arthur Lynden-Bell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., had done for the Regiment.

Colonel Body said that they were all sorry that Colonel B. S. Collard, T.D., O.C., 4th Battalion, was unable to be with them; sorry, too, that he was giving up command of the Battalion.

Major Eric Clarke, toasting "The Past and Present Association," referred to the services of Colonel H. Findlay, general secretary, who was retiring after having held that position for 12 years.

Colonel Findlay was given a tremendous reception and the members greeted him by singing, "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Colonel Findlay, responding, expressed regret that he was retiring from the secretaryship of the Association, but said he would still have its interests and welfare at heart.

Captain A. E. Lloyd Harcastle, secretary of the Branch, proposed the health of "The Guests," and referred to the good fellowship which existed between all ranks of the Regiment.

Mr. Harrison, replying, thanked the Branch for a real good evening, and hoped that some of its members would visit his branch dinner at Ashford.

Sergeant Maplesden also responded.

MESSAGE FROM SIR A. LYNDEN-BELL.

During the evening the following message was read from Major-General Sir Arthur Lynden-Bell:—

"It is a great grief to me to refuse any invitation from those dear fellows of the Weald Branch, but I cannot be with you on March 14th. After consultation with high authority I have decided it would not be right for me under the present circumstances to take part in any functions, regimental or private, until after March 31st. I am sure that the Weald Branch will understand. Please give them my warmest good wishes."

Colonel Body thanked Captain J. P. Geering, O.C. the (C) Weald Company of the 4th Battalion of The Buffs for the use of the Drill Hall; Sergt.-Instructor Cross for catering and Mr. R. G. Lindley for the entertainment.

Members attending the re-union included 22 from the Ashford Branch, six from the Depot at Canterbury and representatives from the Cranbrook and Folkestone Branches.

Colonel Body was supported by Colonel H. Findlay, C.B.E. (general secretary of the Association), Major Eric Clarke (branch vice-chairman), Colonel E. B. Burns, T.D., Captain A. E. Lloyd Harcastle (branch secretary), Major J. S. Robson, Captain E. Boulding (assistant hon. secretary), Lieut. J. C. Jackson, of the 4th Battalion, Mr. Harrison (chairman, Ashford branch), Mr. T. Hogwood (hon. secretary, Ashford branch), and Mr. E. J. Sharrard (assistant secretary, Ashford branch). There were also members present from the nine sub-branches covering the Weald of Kent.

KENT MESSENGER.

Medway Branch.

Minutes of the meeting of the Medway Branch Past and Present Association, The Buffs, held at the Unity Club, Chatham, on February 29th, 1936.

Captain A. Barton presided, supported by the Vice-Chairman (Mr. Brunger), the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. King-Holt), the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Potter) and upwards of 40 members.

MINUTES.—The Minutes of the January meeting were read, and passed on the proposition of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Ward.

CORRESPONDENCE was received and read from General Sir Arthur Lynden-Bell, Colonel of the Regiment, who expressed his good wishes to the members, also pointing out the shortage of recruits offering themselves for the Regiment.

The General hoped that all members would do their utmost to obtain recruits, and "if each members only obtained ONE recruit the Regiment would soon be over strength."

Colonel H. Findlay also wrote regarding the recruiting question, expressing the same wish as the Colonel of the Regiment.

The Chairman mentioned that he hoped that the branch would take to heart the desires of the Colonel of the Regiment, and bring forward recruits.

Mr. Chapman, of Marden, expressed regrets at being unable to be present.

Mr. Sinclair, Sittingbourne Branch, wrote regarding their annual dinner to be held on March 28th, and hoped that as many as possible would support them.

The Chairman, Mr. King-Holt and several other members promised to attend, and the March meeting was arranged for the 21st in order that they could attend.

MERITORIOUS BAR.—Mr. Cox proposed and Mr. Barnes seconded that the Meritorious Bar for the ensuing year be awarded to Mr. Potter. This was approved by the members, and Mr. Potter thanked them for the honour that they had bestowed upon him.

PROPOSED NEW RULES, ETC.—The Chairman read in full all the correspondence received from the Chairman of the Executive Committee relating to the proposed amendments to the rules of the Association.

He also pointed out that in view of the fact that these proposed reservations and amendments had already the full approval of the Colonel of our Regiment before they had been sent out to branches, no useful purpose would be served by making or proposing any alterations, and added that whether we approved of the rules or not we must all abide by them, the Association must go on.

Mr. Potter proposed and Mr. Brunger seconded that the Medway Branch accept the proposals, and that they had nothing to add in addition. This proposal received the support of all the members present.

SICK VISITOR.—Mr. Shirley was selected as the "visiting member" to the sick during the ensuing month.

CLOSURE.—There being nothing further to suggest, the meeting closed, after the sum of 4/- was added to the funds.

There was a very full and merry meeting this month, perhaps the day and date had something to do with the matter, and accounted for the large gathering of upwards of 40 being present.

Anyhow, it was VERY nice to see so many cheery faces around the table, waiting to see what was to come.

It was especially cheery to note that the "old faithfuls," Messrs. Mills, Cooper, Randall, Hadaway and James, were again present. What should we do without the "old uns,"

We saw Mr. Attwood, complete with dog, likewise those "twins" Cox and Shirley.

The Chairman, looking very anxious, came armed with a huge bundle of letters and what not, relating to the proposed new rules and alterations.

He looked very very anxious when he first took stock of the numbers present for this important discussion, but one and two's came slowly into the meeting until a full house was present.

Mr. King-Holt, armed with pens, pencils, etc., arrived a trifle late, but commenced to collect dibs immediately on his arrival.

Mr. Potter, surrounded with paper, ready to record all and sundry suggestions and propositions, sat trying to look as though he never missed a meeting, while Mr. Brunger, of long memory, looked ready to remind the Hon. Secretary that unflinching punctuality and regular attendance was a rule a Secretary should never break.

The minutes were soon read, passed and hidden by the Secretary, and greetings from well wishers were read.

The Colonel of the Regiment explained very clearly his wishes on recruiting, and its vital effect on the future of the Regiment, and all present seemed aware of the importance also, and in full agreement with the Colonel of the Regiment "that it was not right that the oldest Regiment should be under strength."

Our Chairman, having always the interest of the Regiment at heart, expressed a desire that all would do their utmost to assist in this important matter.

We appreciated fully the good wishes the Colonel sent to us, and we are very mindful that not a meeting passes when, if the Colonel cannot be present with us, he does not forget to write us.

The matter of the Meritorious Bar received the attention that was its just due, and Mr. Potter said that Mr. King-Holt, the Hon. Treasurer, deserved more than anyone that honour—to receive the bar for the ensuing year.

Mr. King-Holt said "there were more deserving than he (looking at the proposer of the award to himself), so Mr. Cox then decided Mr. Potter was the one deserving, and as Mr. Ward likewise agreed, the meeting agreed also. Mr. Potter then thanked the members for the honour he had received from them.

In order that as many as desired should attend the dinner of the Sittingbourne Branch, the Chairman arranged the March meeting for the 21st instead of the 28th. Many promised to attend, we hope that they do so. The Sitting-

bourne Branch deserve support, especially as they are our "group" branch.

Mr. Shirley, although taken by surprise, was selected to be the visiting member to the sick for the next month. We sincerely trust that he has no sick to visit.

There was nothing further to suggest, the box having been round, duly filled and scooped by the Treasurer, the meeting closed. A very successful one, well attended. We hope that the March gathering is bigger still.

LADIES' GUILD.

The monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, March 25th, and we were very pleased to have our Chairman with us and see her well again. Others present were Mrs. King-Holt, Mrs. Potter, Mrs. Sellens. Business was carried out first and the summer outing was decided for July 7th, all names to be given early and all money to be paid by June.

During the afternoon an Empire Tea was held with good results.

Mrs. Findlay proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Hutteroth for kindly giving some songs during the afternoon. Tea was served and a competition was won by Mrs. Hadaway.

We send best wishes to all sick members for speedy recovery. Owing to sickness our jumble sale was postponed until April.

M. SELLENS.

Sittingbourne Branch.

The Sittingbourne Branch gave their Chairman, Major D. J. Dean, V.C., a very hearty congratulation on being appointed Lieut.-Colonel and he was also given a hearty welcome at the local British Legion as their President.

Margate Branch.

Not much to write home about this month, quite a number of our regulars being on the sick list. Pleased to say our Chairman is at last on the road to recovery, having had a very trying illness. Pearly is down with "flu," but able to sit up and take nourishment, both solid and otherwise, but latest is Mr. A. F. Pearce, known in the old 4th as "Chissy." We wish him all the best and a quick return to health. Our branch team still hangs about near the bottom of the list. That wooden spoon nightmare begins to look rather real. We are not keeping the town's motto up. Margate must be first, still we can turn the list the other way up if necessary. Our latest member is "Shammy Camflett," late 1st 4th, now living at New Malden, Essex. Well Shammy, welcome to Margate Branch and all the "old uns" send kind regards. We haven't forgotten you, including the other "Shammy" Kentish. We are all sorry to hear that our General Secretary is retiring. Best of luck, sir, for the future, with kind remembrances of happy times in your company.

PEARLY.

Canterbury Branch.

HERNE BAY SUB. BRANCH.

The annual shoot for the Lloyed Trophy took place on February 28th on the Territorial Range, kindly lent with rifles complete by the local Platoon of the 4th Battalion.

There was a reasonably good entry, but members seem to have difficulty in remembering dates.

Three practices, grouping, application and snap, were shot over open sights. Pellett scored a possible. The leading scores were:—

					Total	
H. Pellett	25	20	15	60
W. Thundow	25	19	15	59
R. Bryant	25	17	15	57
W. R. Holmes	20	16	15	51

The annual dinner of the Herne Bay Sub. Branch takes place at the Victoria Hotel, High Street, on Saturday, April 4th, at 7.30 p.m. The tickets are 2/6.

LADIES' BRANCH.

The usual monthly meeting was held at Rhodus Town on Wednesday, March 18th, 1936, at 3 p.m.

A good number put in an appearance and a very good afternoon was enjoyed.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Several games were arranged by our Chairman, prizes again being given by members.

The whist prizes were won by Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Perry and Mrs. Danton.

The darts prizes were won by Mrs. Freeman and Mrs. Newman.

Mrs. Freeman very kindly presented a lovely box of chocolates for raffle. This was won by Mrs. Howard Smith, who very generously handed them round for immediate consumption. Mrs. Groombridge presented a jar of home-made marmalade.

Owing to a false report given last month in these notes which referred to Mrs. Devlin, the Branch offer their apologies to Mrs. Devlin. We are more than pleased to hear the report was only a grave rumour, but we did not wish the event to go by without some comment. This adds to a similar incident which occurred in one of the men's branches a little while ago.

After tea the members dispersed, and it was quite evident that they are looking forward to our next meeting, which will be held on *Wednesday, April 15th, 1936*, when it is hoped new members will come along and join the branch.

Following are amongst those who were present:—Mrs. Howard Smith (our Chairman), Mrs. Andrews (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer), Mrs. Groombridge, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Newman, Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Biggs, Mrs. Keeler, Mrs. Perry, Mrs. Glazier, Mrs. E. Danton, Mrs. T. Danton, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Lewry, Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Tritton.

Special feature for April will be Community Singing.

D.E.A.

Folkestone Branch.

I must apologize for no notes during February and March, but part of the time was occupied in bed with influenza. Anyway, we are about again and will endeavour to let all know what the branch has been doing.

The annual general meeting was held at "D" Company Club on Tuesday, March 3rd, and about 30 members were present. Owing to extra duties with the Detachment Mr. P. C. Roberts gave up the chairmanship of the branch. Mr. C. J. Roberts stepped into the breach and said he would endeavour to carry on the good work of his predecessors. Mr. P. C. Roberts was elected vice-chairman. The other officers were elected as last year, with the exception of Mr. Epps on the committee, whose place was taken by Mr. A. E. Smith. The finances of the branch are fairly good, and everyone is looking forward to a good time this year.

A special vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. P. C. Roberts for his splendid work as chairman, and all regretted his retirement, although they realized the Detachment needed most of his spare time.

The usual monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, March 10th, and Mr. C. J. Roberts, the new chairman, presided. The attendance was not very large, but the committee have great hopes that they will increase in the near future. The Secretary read a letter from Colonel Findlay re recruiting for the Regiment, and suggested a branch recruiting officer should be appointed. It was unanimously agreed that Mr. J. Richards (the "D" Company Club steward) should have the job. So if any wish to know all about the Regiment and how to join would they kindly see him, who will give them full particulars. A small party from the branch are visiting the 2nd Battalion at Bordon in June, also the Tattoo at Aldershot. Some went last year, and by all accounts had a very good time. There being no other business, the members proceeded to finish the games which have been running during the winter. The prizes for these will be presented at the Club Smoker which will be held shortly, to which all members of the branch will be invited.

Cheerio everybody till next month.

W.D.

LADIES' BRANCH.

The usual monthly meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, March 11th. About 36 members were present. We were all very sorry that our Chairman (Mrs. R. G. Wood, J.P.) was not well enough to be with us. We hope she will soon be quite well again. Tea was served at 4 o'clock, followed by our usual popular little whist drive. Our Vice-President, Mrs. Hamilton, very kindly made an iced cake to be raffled. Mrs. Hackney also gave a nightdress case for the same purpose and a good sum was realized. Other prizes were given by Mrs. R. G. Wood, Mrs. Brockway, Mrs. Cloke, and Mrs. Newland, and were won by various members. Although our number was small a very enjoyable and sociable afternoon was spent. We should like more members to attend regularly. A further 10/- has been received from Mrs. Tuff for our Branch Benevolent Fund for which we are very grateful. We have had several members on the sick list this month, and fruit and flowers have been sent to them, and letters of appreciation have been received from them. An outing is being arranged for June. Details later.

A.L.F.

The 1st Battalion.



DESPITE all the acceleration of modern times, our monthly notes still reflect events which have become history by the time we get our copies of *The Dragon*. We seem to need a sort of "prophetic past tense" in which to chronicle our daily doings. As it is, these notes, penned in late February, will not reach us until late April when most of us will be steaming in Lucknow, whilst a few fortunate ones enjoy the cool of Chaubattioa. Wherever we may be we shall be missing the climate, the people, and the scenery of this pleasant land of Burma. We have been five and a half years in small stations, virtually cut off from anything up-to-date, so that the change to a torrid climate and competitive conditions will do us good, whether we like it or not.

We have returned from a very pleasant camp at Kangyi—perhaps the best that any of us has seen or will hope to see. Four thousand feet up and set in the midst of some of the most perfect training country imaginable, Kangyi will be remembered and spoken of with regretful longing for many a year to come. "B" Company was the first to occupy it, with the 11th A.T. Company R.I.A.S.C. "next door." Then came "S," to fire their machine guns over the open country.

The Past and Present Association—continued.

Deal Branch.

LADIES' GUILD.

At the end of the third year of its formation I have to report the strength of the Guild as 38 members.

As you will see by the balance sheet we still have a good sum of money in hand. The meetings have not been so well attended as the past two years, but I think we must blame the weather for this, and not to less interest taken in the Guild.

A jumble sale was held in May, and realized the sum of £2/1/4, half of this amount going to the Deal Branch Past and Present Association. A donation of £1 was kindly given by Miss Corlett, and 2/- given anonymously.

Through the generosity of the Misses Backhouse a garden party was held in June, and as in previous years this was greatly enjoyed by all.

A party of seven made the trip to the London Branch in October, and every minute of the time spent there was much enjoyed.

Owing to the death of His Majesty the King we were unable to hold our usual social.

There was only one case of serious sickness which we were able to help.

In conclusion, may I thank all members who have given gifts for competitions, and to the committee for grateful help at all times.

"C" then took the place of "B", who went down to Mandalay in relief of them. Lastly came Battalion Headquarters and "A" Company, and the 11th Mountain Battery, R.A., so that with a skeleton "B" we were able to carry out battalion training and much useful work was done. For relaxation, there were football, pass-ball and "hiking", whilst some, more daring, ventured out on mules. Those who brought guns got some good shooting in the marshy valleys, and snipe were plentiful. The ladies paid us a visit towards the end of camp and we thank them for braving the appalling road in order to brighten us up.

The return trip was done in two marches by direct but excessively mountainous track. The whole battalion had pack transport throughout, but there were no casualties to man or beast despite the precipitous gradients. The only thing that marred our enjoyment of camp was the death of His late Majesty King George V, made the more poignant for us by our remoteness and lack of communication, and so of proper news.

We were unable to do more to mark the sad occasion than to parade for a short address by the Camp Commandant (Captain Webster), followed by a two minutes silence, since at the time we had neither band nor drums—not even a bugle.

At the moment of writing we have just finished a successful rifle meeting of which full results are given below.

We congratulate Lieut. R. F. Parry and Lieut. J. F. Connolly on being respectively the winner and the runner-up in the Battalion Championship Cup. Lieut. Parry needed only 4 points to have brought off a double event by winning the Revolver Championship too. We congratulate Sergeant MacNulty, the winner of this, on his fine score.

A large party was present at a farewell party given by Mrs. Whitacre Allen for Miss "Mimi" Allen, who has left for England. We hope she takes with her some happy memories of her stay here.

We welcome Captains Foster Hall and Rose who have recently rejoined us, the one from Malaya and the other from the Staff College (Camberley).

We wish all success to Captain Boucher who recently sat for the examination, also to Captain Penlington who has taken his ("D") promotion papers.

Lieut.-Colonel Morgan has been selected to attend a course at the Senior Officers School, Sheerness, and leaves us shortly for home.

We offer our hearty best wishes to Lieut. N. R. Reeves on his engagement.

Lieut. Kenwerd has been very successful with his puppy "Risalpur George", better known as "George", who obtained three firsts and a special award at the Rangoon Dog Show recently.

King Edward's speech to the Empire was received perfectly at Maymyo at 10.30 p.m. on March 1st. We have personally never heard a broadcast so loud, clear and steady—not even at home. The reverberations of Big Ben chiming four o'clock nearly shook the room of the sub-editor's bungalow, where was gathered quite a large party, including Lieut.-Colonel Morgan, Captain and Mrs. Webster, Captain and Mrs. Penlington, Captain Boucher and most of the dining members of the Mess. The King-Emperor's special reference to India brought home to us the immense possibilities of this personal link between Sovereign and subject.

Battalion Rifle Meeting, 1936.

BATTALION CHAMPIONSHIP CUP: 1st, Lt. R. F. Parry, score 170; 2nd, Lt. J. F. Connolly, score 157; 3rd, I./Cpl. Phillipson, score 157.

MATCH 1 (a).—Class "A": Winner: Sgt. Siviers. Class "B": Winner: Pte. Fuller.

MATCH 1 (b).—Class "A": Winner: Pte. E. Smith (5511). Class "B": Winner: I./Cpl. Pipkin.

MATCH 2.—Class "A": Winners: Sgt. Siviers and I./Cpl. Phillipson. Class "B": Winner: Pte. Mansbridge.

MATCH 3.—1st: Capt. Penlington; 2nd: Pte. B. Powell.

MATCH 4.—1st: I./Cpl. Jolley; 2nd: Lt. R. F. Parry.

MATCH 5.—1st: Lt. J. F. Connolly.

MATCH 6 (Tile).—1st: Band "A" team; 2nd: No. 6 Platoon "B" team; 3rd: No. 10 Platoon "B" team; 4th: No. 9 Platoon "B" team.

MATCH 13 (Young Soldiers).—1st: Pte. Brindley (62); 2nd: Pte. Middleton (54); 3rd: Pte. Judd (53); 4th: Pte. Trid (53); 5th: Pte. Madden (52); 6th: Pte. B. Powell (51).

MATCH 14 (Revolver).—Class "B": 1st, Pte. Matfin (56); 2nd, I./Cpl. Garrett (46).

REVOLVER CHAMPIONSHIP.—1st, Sgt. McNulty, 171; 2nd, Lt. R. F. Parry, 168; 3rd, C.S.M. Fawcett, 157; 4th, Lt. H. R. Grace, 155.

INDIAN PLATOON MATCH.—Practice 1.—1st, Sepoy Phal Singh, 20; 2nd, C/Hav. Bhawani, 20. Practice 2.—1st, Sepoy Ram Sarup, 46.

OPEN TILE SHOOT.—1st, 10/20th Burma Rifles; 2nd, 1st Buffs "A" Team.

Sergeants' Mess.

To begin I must make all my excuses at the beginning.

For one thing these notes will be rather disjointed, seeing that I was a 'Base Wallah,' and therefore cannot give any first hand information with reference to Camp. This I do know; fires were of no consequence, gas attacks forgotten about, unless those imaginary ones on Training Days can be mentioned, but Solo Whist was certainly the predominating occupation for most. Two visits to camp found all and sundry happy and well, browned, not to forget No. 1 who started to decorate his chest and arms with sunburn. A spell of wet weather, rather unexpected, caused a certain amount of alarm, and one Quartermaster-Sergeant is still trying to decipher certain figures in the Pay and Mess Book.

For the benefit of Jim (and I hope he still finds time to read *The Dragon* notes) there was no White Cabbage, in fact, I believe they were very well off. The R.Q. came back with his usual yearly sunburn and is the perfect advert for "Life in the open air." He does this every year and would have been most upset not to have spent the last one at Kangyi.

For those at Headquarters I could say a lot, but then it would be letting too many secrets out. One thing, Mac didn't find too much time to fire his usual 5,000 rds. as practice before the Burma Rifle meeting.

He has had his annual confinement to Barracks as Mess Caterer, being most upset when one called for a drink with too much lemon in.

Archie Meakin spent a certain amount of time packing up prior to tripping off home on a vocational course before he becomes plain Mr.

As for Stanley, he was most concerned with 7.30 Roll Calls, and that all Casualties did try and have first interview, you see he was most conscientious and dared not be a ration over-drawn.

Company Sergeant-Majors can do these things when it comes to a push you know, and feed the troops well, anyway, very few moans were heard, unless it was because one doesn't as a rule eat Potatoes with the skin on, and someone had to peel them.

The Schoolmaster became a very busy man, and one ceases to wonder why the schoolrooms always looked so clean. No, they never even left him a sweeper, and did he Crib? most certainly not!

As for Tomo, well in his spare time, only once a week, by the way, he managed to fit in a Whist Drive, which was most enjoyable, there always being seven tables going. It made a very social evening, not only for the whist point of view, but a little bit of scandal among the ladies, and a spot of Skittles or Snooker among the very few Gents.

I cannot remember the winners off hand, you can put that down to neglect on my part, but suffice to say they went round, there seemed to be no sharks and so every one was happy.

Promotion. What a great word! and we have had it happen this month, a very rare happening out here, and one for celebration.

To think that on the night they came into the mess there was 6½ gallons in the barrel, and the following morning none, and in addition 23 members of the Mess were still at camp, proves that they are certainly good members in so far as that is concerned.

The Caterer happened to say that beer was graded according to the thickness of it, so Savico agrees that the last glass he had was worth 5 Rupees, anyway he got it down.

On the 12th we had the draft arriving, and once again we have proof that soldiering is done mostly abroad. Freddy Faulkner has had enough of English Winters and all the other sundry items, and is with us once again, and looks friskier than ever.

The name of the ship he travelled on, as far as he is concerned, was *H.T. Dreamship*, but there is more to be heard in reference to that.

"A Weighty Problem."



Lt.-Colonel's Allen and Morgan. Captains Willows, Penlington and Boucher at Kangyi.

One member hasn't yet seen his bill, not being there when the liquor was consumed and he is hoping right now at this moment, that the prices don't suddenly alter.

What is it the doctor says? "After long years of suffering." No; I have got that all wrong, it should be "After long years of patiently waiting," we have one new C.S.M. in C.Q.M.S. Marsh, a new C.Q.M.S. in Sgt. Brophy, three new Sergeants in Hogben, Fox and Cpl. Jones (the latter is still fighting his way through the jungle at the Wa States) and three new members to the mess in Cpls. Savico, Kinsella and Ivey.

Well the best of luck to them all, there will certainly be larger sales in beer, and less in lemon, as the three latter ones have throats with the tastes of just plain beer without the lemon.

It is certain that B.121 has something to do with, and it doesn't happen to be a Company Conduct Sheet.

One more additional member to the Mess is L/Sgt. Eley. We offer a hearty welcome to him and his wife, but like a lot more members, we would like to see a little bit more of him. There are always papers to read, a game of Billiards, and a little bit of scandal, life is too short to have to spend it all at home, and after all, that is what the mess is for. An occasional visit would help to wear out the Dhurry, and a lot would appreciate it more than one would think.

We wish a bon voyage and every success to Mrs. Selway, who has had the misfortune to have to take young Donald home to recuperate.

We naturally feel sorry for Laurel, being left on his own, but he has a job to perform in soothing Hardy (he is in the same boat) and could do with a certain amount of comfort in his loss.

Just at present there is plenty to do, and No. 1 will be one of the first to be glad to see it all over. I am alluding to the Battalion Rifle Meeting, to be followed closely by the Burma Meeting and the Annual General Inspection.

This comes on top of our move to Lucknow, so you can see, no-one is really idle, and it bears out my statement, and I trust "Touchstone" reads these, that we are a very busy lot out here in the sunny climes.

And so I must close again for another month, and remain,

SACCO.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

To go on a cycle, ride on a horse, and come back on the first named seems rather an experience, others seem to have some other form of exercise, even if it be only to get dressed to play tennis and not turn up at the last minute.

The latest news of Mac's going away seems to be October, year not yet known, a lot depends on: (a) The Irish Sweep (anyone will do); (b) the amount he is still fed up on the arrival of the good said month.

One is pleased to see Hoppo once again hopping around the Tennis Court, but thank goodness the numps spread no further than the pioneers' shop, and all that was left in it during the period of Isolation.

Sorry I did not mention them before, but all members at the Wa States are doing well. Cheery letters still arrive, but I am not laying any that they would not rather be back.

All send their best, and wish to be remembered to all, and hope to be able to spend their first leave on return, hiking somewhere just to be in trim for the next show, and so keep in practice.

The competition for the efficiency medal still goes on, and at present two members are running neck and neck.

SACCO.

Corporals' Club.

A Parrot, I think, looks an awful dejected thing after a bath, but just lately I have seen a few faces that emulate the Parrot's air of woe. The cause is not, as some would think, toothache, but the lonely feeling that has arisen since the departure of certain friends to higher circles. We must congratulate and wish the following N.C.O.'s all the very best in their new home, Sergeants Jones, Kinsella, Sovico and Ivey. Also I add a similar word of praise to those promoted within the Mess, and we must add these N.C.O.'s in our paragraph of Promotion News, Corporals Southwell, West, Arnett, Chapman, Murdock, Bartlett, Watts and L/Corporals Collins, Eustace, Finch, Haigh, Smith, McCormack, Ringe, Brice, Chidwick, Richards and Pink. Well Done!

We welcome to our midst Cpl. Carr and L/Cpls. Bowyer, Cullen, Johnson, Wilson, Gammon, Swain, Wainwright and McCormack and hope they soon make themselves at home.

A certain Band of Hope affair fell through, so I'm told, at Camp. Boot went to the Wa and of course that allowed certain parties to break the Water Waggon. At Camp by the way I saw certain N.C.O.'s buying all manner of things and this generally occurred before a stunt. Some took sardines out, were they hoping they might emulate another well known person and feed the Battalion or were they just hungry?

This must conclude the month's notes because I am at a loss for further news, but I hope to keep the typist more busy next time.

M.

The Band.

Once again we are minus the Bandmaster, who has gone to England for well-earned leave. It is rumoured that he is after P.S.M. If he succeeds we shall probably lose him for good. Still we sincerely hope he wins the laurels.

L/Cpl. Hollness, L/Cpl. Watts, Bdms. Kember, Boland, Bishop, Cowley and Osborne have all left us for the Home Battalion. We wish them the best and hope they enjoy themselves in their new life, but can assure them that there is still room for them in the 1st Battalion Band if they wish to come back again.

Most of us are practising hard for the forthcoming Battalion Sports, which are to be held next month. We hope to figure largely in the prize list.

As I write these notes, I have heard that the Band Team won the Tile Shoot in the Battalion Rifle Meeting. Laugh that one off No. 3 Group! L/Cpl. Phillipson was placed third in the Battalion Championship, being counted out for second place. Well done, Phill!

We had our usual good (?) time at Camp, being mainly employed in making all the schemes go wrong. As the enemy we managed to throw a few monkey wrenches in the well laid schemes of various Battalion Commanders, but all well that ends well. Coming home from Kangyi was a bit of a job for several of the Band as they were put in charge of the mules. Still, as usual, they rose to the occasion in great style, and all reported safely at Maymyo.

COUNT.

The Drums.

After digging into Intelligence Section Files, runner's messages and under Kangyi dust, we have managed, at last, to dig out a pen and to get outside a few notes.

Training being over we are now in the throes of those maladies, the Battalion Rifle Meeting and the Burma Rifle Meeting. We hope to see some of our members shining in both prize lists.

"Schnozzle" says that the practice of killing his unkillable-enemies at Kangyi has made him such a good shot that if anyone beats his 34 at Rapid he is going to use a six-gun to make sure of getting a prize.

L/Cpl. Pawley has left us for a spot leave in U.K. and to sample the joys of a B & B. Good luck!

Quite a number of Young Hands have joined us from the last draft, including three of the smallest boys I have ever seen. It is one of the wonders of Maymyo to see them marching to bugle practice under the command of D/Major Smith.

L/Cpl. Houghton is at present undergoing a course in carpentry in readiness for the move to Lucknow, and his busy hammer keeps the rooms awake during the sacred siesta hour. One day something is going to happen to that hammer!

L/Cpl. Whittington is booked for the advance party for Lucknow and we hear that he has purchased a suitable book in which to make a list of the fair damsels addresses in readiness for the arrival of the Battalion "Sheiks" in April. He has promised to have a reception committee of fair maidens at the Station—we hope he keeps his word.

JAY.

Signal Section.

Once again with girded loins and a feeling of escape from the monotony of barrack life we embarked upon our Annual Battalion Training period at our beloved Kangyi Camp. With the fitness gained from four days marching we commenced next day on three weeks of continuous schemes, during which the Section made its usual good impression.

We were advanced and withdrawn, defending and evacuating, attacked and attacking, assaulted, supported, reported but never routed; held together by that precious link, reeled out and reeled in, that thin black line.

Special attention must be paid to one Dike, a newcomer to the Section, but without an equal at the arduous task of slinging out line. So good was he that I am forced into poetry:—

“S” Company passing a Buddhist Monastery near Kangyi.



Standing there, anxious miened,
Waiting an age it seemed,
Muscles all tense,
For my word: Commence!
Running with whirling reel,
As though our fates to seal,
Over the kuds he flew,
Faster and faster.
How can I stop the man?
Surely there is some ban,
K.R.'s, little blue book
Their rules my mind forsook,
Kindly fate then intervened,
My honour was redeemed,
A hidden tree stump did the trick,
It had stretched out in a tick

[That's enough of that.—Ed.]

We have said goodbye to Cpl. Paramour, who has left us for the Wa Boundary Commission in place of Cpl. Rogers, who was evacuated. We wish Cpl. Rogers a speedy recovery.

J. W. PIR.

“A” Company.

Little news is to hand of the Wa States Boundary Commission, and its movements are seemingly shrouded in secrecy. Several reliefs have taken place lately (owing to sickness), the exchanges, of course, being within the Company. Apparently, the Base Camp, formerly at Holsawn, has been moved to somewhere South-East of Lufang, well into that part of the Wa States which has, up to the present, never been surveyed. However, this is now being remedied as quickly as circumstances will permit.

According to some of the letters received from the Wa States recently—some of them fairly lurid, too—the Wa's look with envious eyes on our fellows' heads, at the same time eyeing with fear their “Hathiyar” (arms, if you don't know). I daresay they feel much the same as Sir Walter Raleigh did when he modestly aspired to the hand of Queen Bess—

“Fain would I climb,
But that I fear to fall.”

Anyhow, if they do feel like climbing at all, or even preparing for an effort, our fellows will be quite willing to assist in pulling the ladder from under their leathery feet!

The remainder of the Company—bless their peaceful hearts—including the Draft which arrived recently, marched to Kangyi Camp on January 31st, and returned as Rear Party to the Battalion on February 22nd (by train). As this camping period (the last of its kind we shall enjoy in Burma) will no doubt be well exploited by contemporary ink-slingers, I shall only mention one or two incidents which are, I think, worth recounting.

One hears some quaint remarks during training! One also sees some amusing scenes, the like of which, although not actually allowed for in the “Narrative,” yet provide an interest and humour to sometimes dull situations. For instance, we were fighting a rear-guard action, and had retired in good order (be it said) through “C” Company's lines. Tramping furiously along the hard brown track we passed a copse in which Lieut. Kenward was apparently selecting a position for his Platoon. His horse, panting heavily and showing signs of recent violent exertion, stood close by.

On seeing the owner, Lieut. Reeves ran furiously over to him, and the following took place:

Lieut. Reeves: “Here Percy, you're cheating. Your horse has been put out of action once!”

Lieut. Kenward: “No it isn't then, see? It's been put back in again!”

(Complete collapse of our footsore Company Commander.)

Now I wonder by what means that youthful Umpire reincarnated that horse?

On another occasion, Cpl. Druggitt, now on his way home (you'll probably see him at one of the P. & P. dinners—he's a hungry blighter!), was studying the construction of a Burmese Bullock cart from a position about two feet away from the hind-quarters of one of the team. Now this is certainly playing with fire, and he should have known better. These ungodly creatures have no respect for rank whatsoever, and this particular animal was no exception to the rule! Like lightning, its hoof, case-hardened and well “gritted,” whipped out sideways, sending Cpl. D. on his back. Nothing daunted, and with a look of grim, vengeful purpose on his face, D. prepared to give it a taste of its own medicine—a hefty kick.

No sooner, however, had he drawn back his "number nine," when—crash—and down he went again with a beautiful hoof-mark on his *other* leg! That beast evidently knew something, mild though it looked. In any case, a sadder and wiser N.C.O. picked himself up and limped slowly and painfully away, nursing a pair of black-and-blue knees, and minus his dignity! Nasty Burmese bullock, eh, George?

We extend a hearty welcome to Capt. Foster Hall, M.C., on his taking over the Company this month. Also to the Drafts which have arrived just in time to see a little of this beautiful country before we move to Lucknow in April. Lieut. N. R. Reeves is taking over Lt. Qtr. Master whilst Mr. Martin arranges affairs in Lucknow. I have already found out that this onerous task entails free chāe and cakes from Khair Mohamed. Still, "Honi Soit," etc., you know, though I'm rather glad that someone can get something for nothing from that dusky gentleman!

I hear that the Ancient Order of Plank-Walkers has been revived again. This is a select band, but I don't advise anyone to join it unless they can speak at least two languages and mutter incoherencies in several others. The membership fee is only two Rupees.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Marsh on his well-deserved promotion. Also to Sgt. Jones, Cpls. Southwell, Arnett, and Chapman. I hear that the former is ear-marked for "S" Company, although one cannot rely too much on hearsay. If he does go to the Gunners, he will certainly smarten their Tug-of-War team up a bit!

FOOTBALL.

Although the Company is much below strength, we still contrive to play a game of Soccer now and again. I noticed one or two very good players at the match between the "Draft" and "A" Company on the 24th, when we were trounced by 3—0. Unfortunately, most of these men go to "S" Company when the turn-over takes place. Still, we can't have all the luck.

DAWIT A LAIKA.

"B" Company.

The thermometer is rapidly rising, and as there is no drink forthcoming at the end of these notes, I am afraid they are going to be short and sweet. First of all, I wish to congratulate L/Cpl. Wells on winning the All-Burma Championship Putting the Shot, with a throw of 33½ feet. He should certainly make a name for himself when he gets to India.

Nothing much has happened out of the ordinary this month with the exception of the Harris Shield Shoot, which we won with a score of 1,479. We were lucky in the respect that we were the last to fire at Mandalay, and all we had to do was to beat H.Q. Wing's score of 1,054, which we proceeded to do with a comfortable margin. Credit is due to the untiring efforts of C.S.M. Wickham and Lieut. H. C. F. Harwood, who coached the team, the time and practice they put in were evidently not wasted.

The only remaining event in the Harris Shield to take place now is the Athletics, which take place on March 27th and 28th. If we can put ourselves forward one more than last year and come in first, we move up to second place in the Harris Shield. Every evening the majority of the Company can be seen out on the Sports Field, so if we do not get first place it will not be for the want of trying.

The Hockey Team have also had plenty of practice lately, and have played at least one game per week, as shown below:—

v. Sappers and Miners	Draw 3—3
v. Sappers and Miners	Lost 4—2
v. Vernacular School	Draw 1—1
v. Sappers and Miners	Lost 6—2
v. Vernacular School	Won 3—1

I should like to mention, whilst we are on the subject of Hockey, that the Sappers and Miners are equal to any Battalion Team, and are acknowledged the crack team in Burma. So there is no disgrace in them beating us in the circumstances, rather we deserve commending on the stiff fight we gave them on two or three occasions. We were rather unfortunate in meeting such a good team in the first round of the Upper Burma Knock-out Tournament, but against all the odds we gave them a good run before we admitted ourselves beaten.

The following have gone to Maymyo to take part in the Army Rifle Meeting, and with them goes our very best wishes and hopes:—Lieut. H. C. F. Harwood, C.S.M. Wickham, Sgt. Sivers, Ptes. Rayner, Green and Hillier, L/Cpls. Munday and Wells.

We also wish to welcome the last Draft to the Company, who arrived at Mandalay on February 25th. After their stay at Kangyi they should not be long in settling down to the Mandalay routine.

Before concluding, I should like to congratulate the following on their promotions and appointments, and hope to see them climb still higher:—Cpl. Ivey to L/Sergeant; L/Sgt. Hogben to Sergeant, L/Cpl. West to Corporal, and L/Cpl. McCormack (recently joined) on receiving his pay of appointment.

And last but not least we want to wish Sgt. Hogben and Cpl. and Mrs. Message a bright and happy leave in dear old Blighty. Don't dare to come back here married "Ben."

I hope to be able to start next month's notes with an account of how we won the Harris Shield Sports, but as the story books say, that is in the lap of the gods.

So until next month, dear readers, we will wish you "Auf Wederschen."

WICK/REG.

"C" Company.

During the past month very little of note has occurred owing to Platoon, Company and Battalion Training, which were carried out from Kangyi Camp. The usual battles have been fought, and won or lost, as the Director thought fit. The writer had the luck to be an assistant umpire throughout Battalion Training and thereby learnt more than would ordinarily have been the case.

We hope the draft that joined us on the way to camp enjoyed the experience.

Whilst on the subject of drafts, another one arrived at Maymyo a week before we returned—on February 21st. L/Sgt. Eley, L/Cpl. Gammon, L/Cpl. Swain and Pte. Wraight are posted to this Company and we offer them a hearty welcome.

Since our last notes Cpl. Hall and Ptes. R. Blake, Olifent and Spelman have left us, the two former for the 2nd Battalion and the two latter on transfer to the Army Reserve; Ptes. D. Austin, Herbert and Reeve are about to be transferred to the Signal Section and Pte. Hawkins to "A" Company. We wish them all luck for the future.

Pte. Upton has gone to Lucknow on a Vocational Training Course in Dairy Farming, of which we hope he will make a success.

Cpl. Pattenden and L/Cpl. Punnett have gone on six months furlough to England. We hope that they will enjoy themselves.

We offer our congratulations to L/Cpls. Eustace, S. Brice, and Richards on receiving the pay of their appointments.

Just recently the scores of "B" Company's "Harris Shield" shooting team were published, and they were, to put it mildly, staggering! H.Q. Wing's excellent score was exceeded by no less than 429 points! This puts us into third place for shooting.

At present the Battalion Rifle Meeting is in full swing and we have several representatives in the Battalion 48. Good luck to them.

As we go to Press, an old "C" Company officer, in the person of Captain A. J. D. Rose, has just arrived from England and we are delighted to welcome him back to our fold as he has once again been posted to the company—as second in command. We only hope that his stay with us will not be a short one, but we know what generally happens to an officer with the magic letter "P.S.C." after his name.

YSAE.

"S" Company.

A change is usually voted as equal to a rest, but unfortunately the saying goes adrift when the Battalion has its yearly change at Camp. Fortunately, however, another old proverb proves true, and the ill wind of hard work and minor hardships left the Battalion brown and fit at the termination of annual training.

The Company spent the first fortnight of Battalion training by firing Part III. of the annual Machine Gun Course, where the fruits of the hum-drum D.P. work were proved. It is always this part of a Machine Gunner's work that tends to develop his trust and respect for his weapon. It is not until the wonderful tactical powers and performances are actually witnessed that one realises the value of a Machine Gun Unit.

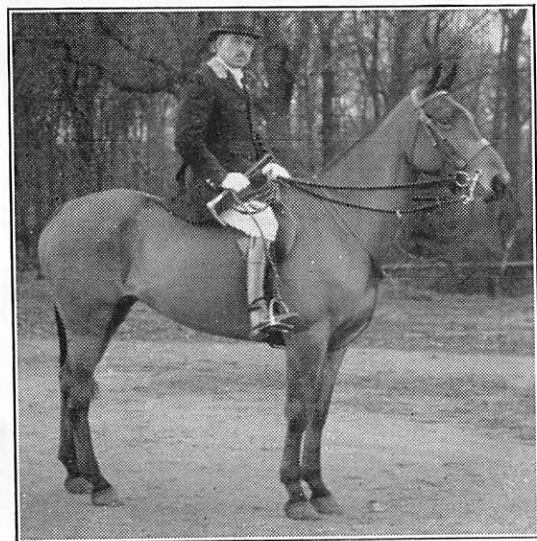
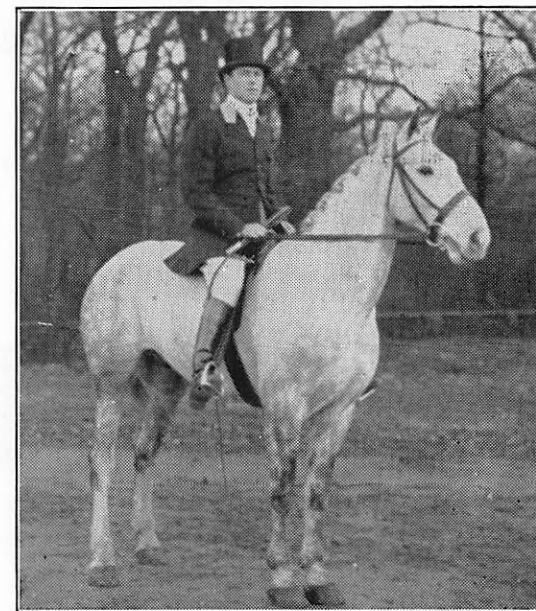
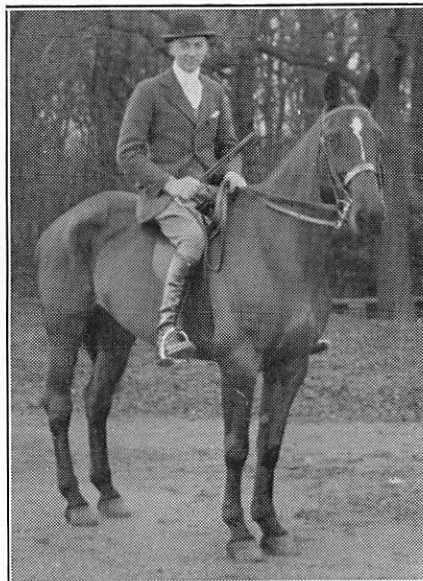
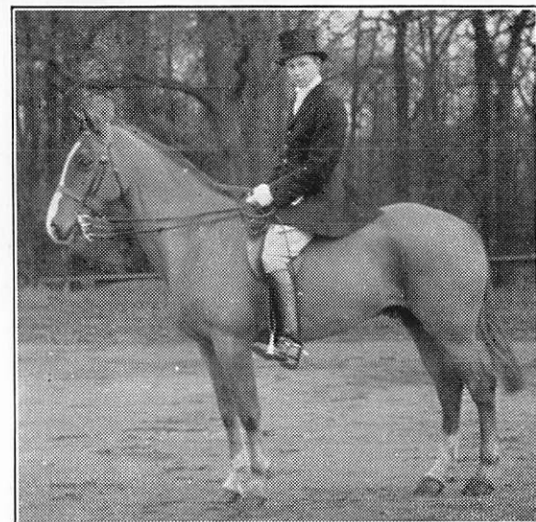
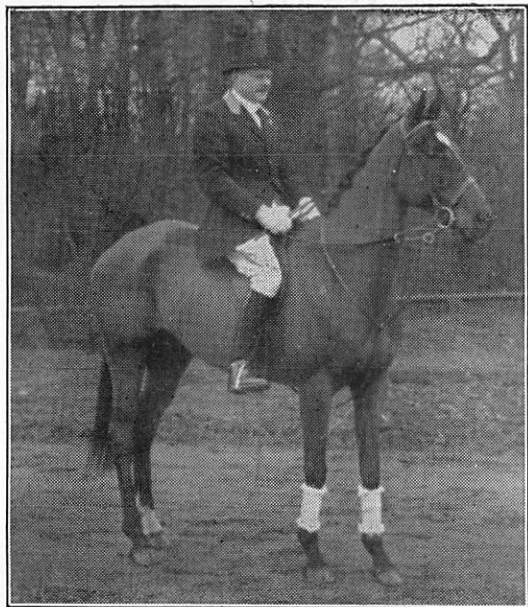
The second period of Battalion training was split into two parts, the first being a period of practice where faults were discussed and hopes were entertained that these faults would not be repeated; and lastly, as a conclusion, a number of stunts were staged where umpires were wont to place one out of action if faults did occur.

The first period proved quite interesting, and the night stunts even amusing. Nothing is more pathetic than a Platoon Commander's face if, through some mistake, it usually occurs whilst he is reconnoitring, that he finds, "Dawn's left hand is in the sky," and his Platoon is Lord knows where! Luckily a bright moon helped the night's work on each occasion, so that we were able to realise how hard it *might* have been.

Camp terminated at last and apparently some (they are usually known as fools, but I have a better name) thought that it was a pity to leave Kangyi with such a beautiful Dining Hall. A match was, I presume, put to the roof and we had breakfast on the grass the next morning, but if by chance the fool reads this, I hope he realises that the fire cost a N.C.O. and a few men a night out, and had the wind blown northwards we might have had to tighten our belts for breakfast the next day.

NIMRODS.

2nd Bn. The Buffs,
1936.



Capt. Coates
on "Orion."

Mr. Walker
on "Tony,"

Mr. Edmeades
on Major Hamilton's
"Ivy."

Capt. Spear
on "Ruby."

Mr. Howard
on "John Silver."

The 2nd Battalion.



THIS has been a very busy month, and judging by the "Provisional Forecast of Training and Events" just published, we are to have anything but a rest cure in the next few months. We began with Officers' Training Week, with its many and varied demonstrations, lectures and T.E.W.T.'s. The weather, though cold, was not too unfriendly during the latter. This week was followed by two very full days of

demonstrations to several School O.T.C.'s, who spent part of the day on the Ranges and part in barracks. We have now completed Sergeants' and Corporals' Weeks, and next turn our attention to the Annual Weapon Training Course, which will be fired early this year, as we are to take part in the Aldershot Tattoo, entailing rehearsals throughout May and the beginning of June. Our rôle in this is a P.T. display, for which we have to produce over 300 men—not an easy task with a battalion well under strength. The battalion parades daily to practice the required evolutions, and their sequence is already "sinking in."

This month we have had two cross-country running successes; firstly, when we had four companies in the first five in the Bordon Group Run, "C" Company winning for the second year in succession; secondly, in the Aldershot Command Run, which we won comfortably from the South Staffordshires. We are now prepared to regain the Army Championship,

1st Battalion—continued.

I will not dwell on small things like marches, we have grown so used to them by now, but I will conclude that Maynyo was reached by the Company, which marched in safe and sound on the 21st, two days out of Kangyi.

Straightening out is now the feature of the day and in the offing we have our Company Sports, Battalion and Burma Rifle Meetings, and the packing for our move to Lucknow. All this will find us busy for a month, and will help to fill next month's news a little more fully I trust.

Lastly, I must wish, on behalf of the Company, our best wishes and thoughts for the future to Mr. and Mrs. Meakins (you will notice that we say Mister), but C.Q.M.S. Meakin, Mr. or rank, will always remain a dear memory to all who knew him in the Company. A thorough sportsman, he has been an example to us all, we must thank him for his work in this direction, and we must try to carry on his work, especially in the swimming line.

STOP PRESS.

Congratulations to Lieut. R. F. Parry, we hear he has just become the Battalion Rifle Champion. (It took a Gunner!)

M.

which will be run on March 17th at Tidworth. It is interesting to note that the two battalions chosen to give the P.T. display in the Tattoo, were the first two in the Command Run.

We congratulate Captain Coates on riding his horse "Orion" into second place in the Aldershot Races, and as I write he and several others are preparing for the Regimental race with the 5th Fusiliers.

Our squash team has succeeded in winning the Garrison Inter-Unit League, having beaten the 5th Fusiliers in the first three sets played. We have now entered for the Command Tournament and meet H.Q. 1st Division in the second round.

Lieut.-Colonel Thomson and E. S. Scott have reached the semi-final of the Command Inter-Unit Foursomes, having beaten the R.E.'s by 3 & 2 and the Staff College, who had to scratch owing to illness. Our other pair, Dewar and Walters were defeated by the R.A.P.C., for whom Major Stanham, who is a member of the Buffs Golfing Society, was playing.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Captain Sankey on his engagement. He is at present in Aldershot doing assistant A.P.M.

Captain Spear is just off on a three weeks' cruise for the remainder of his "Christmas" leave. This certainly makes us at Bordon envious, but we can only shiver and get closer to the fire.

Point to Point.

The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers v. The Buffs.

The Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, The Buffs and Royal Northumberland Fusiliers Point to Point Races were held at Ashridgewood, Wokingham, on 14th March, on a fine afternoon with firm going and some stiffcut and laid fences with drops on the far side.

The fifth race, 4.20 p.m., was for us the event of the afternoon and for which our hunting fraternity had been preparing for weeks.

The entry and conditions were as follows:—
For a Cup of £3 to the winning team. Each unit to have four nominated starters to count.

For horses the *bona-fide* property of any past or present officer of the regiment, or Government chargers on the strength of the unit, or hired Government horses which are qualified under Military Regulations to run in Point-to-Point Races.

Weight 12 st. 7 lbs. or over.

The winning team will be that team which gains the least number of points, *e.g.*, first home counts one point, second two points and so on. Any competitor who fails to complete the course within fifteen minutes after the winner will count eight points.

1, Capt. D. C. Coates (Bufs) "Orion II." (Owner); 2, Capt. T. H. Spear (Bufs) "Ruby" (Mr. Edmeades); 3, Mr. J. G. Nicholson (Bufs) "Hill Top III." (Owner); 4, Capt. D. C. Coates (Bufs) "Lady Peg" (Owner); 5, Mr. C. R. Tuff (Bufs) "King Kelso" (Owner); 6, Mr. B. H. Craig (Bufs) "Diana" (Owner); 7, Mr. F. H. Howard (Bufs) "John Silver" (Owner); 8, Lt.-Col. A. B. Thomson (Bufs) "Onyx" (Mr. Edlmann); 9, Capt. L. M. S. Essell (Bufs) "Tony" (Mr. Walker); 10, Capt. H. Milton (Bufs) "Jane" (Owner); 11, Mr. P. G. Clarke (Bufs) "Jane" (Owner); 12, Capt. N. E. Hoare (Bufs) "Gypsy" (Owner); 13, Mr. A. D. Smith (5th Fusiliers) "Spring Forward" (Owner); 14, Mr. A. D. Smith (5th Fusiliers) "Merlin V." (Mr. R. P. Whelan); 15, Mr. T. F. C. Hamilton (5th Fusiliers) "Ace of Spades II." (Owner); 16, Mr. B. J. Leach (5th Fusiliers) "Lady Noggs II." (Owner); 17, Sir A. F. M. Palmer (5th Fusiliers) "Falstaff" (Owner); 18, Mr. R. F. B. Hensman (5th Fusiliers) "Dancing Lady" (Mr. B. F. Blood); 19, Mr. G. W. Thornton (5th Fusiliers) "Noblet" (Mr. R. M. Pratt); 20, Capt. W. R. M. Clifford (5th Fusiliers) "Granite" (Owner); 21st, Capt. W. R. M. Clifford (5th Fusiliers) "Marvel" (Owner).

Of the above, 15 faced the starter, 8 from The Bufs and 7 Fusiliers. As usual in Point-to-Point races it is impossible to give any consecutive account of a race, as so much takes place out of sight of the individual watcher. But before three fences were passed one Buff and two Fusiliers had parted company with their horses, and I hear that the two latter are still arguing as to whose fault it was, and the field disappeared into the hazy distance, about this time rumour has it that Horley was leading the field, at least he says so, and we could see Coates well placed, after a few minutes hidden from us by a large wood, the field appeared again with at least ten still going strong, and a good race obviously in prospect, but so many people were bobbing about in front of me that I could not make out anyone very clearly, however, my feelings were that both teams had equal numbers still running.

Another disappearance round the wood and here they come for the last four fences and the run in.

Coates leading all the way on "Orion" and though Whelan on "Merlin" tries to narrow the gap, Coates always has something in hand, then follow two more Fusiliers on "Granite" and "Lady Noggs," followed by a gallant sight, Tuff finishing barebacked, as indeed he had jumped the last three fences in an effort to catch the Fusilier in front of him, his saddle had slipped right round. Then came Edmeades on "Ruby," whose owner was away as noted elsewhere in this number, Nicholson, and a last Fusilier. A breathless pause while Colonels Garmier and Thomson add up the scores, we have lost by two points to our friends, but had the honour of the first man home.

SCORES.—Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, 2, 3, 4, 8 = 17; Bufs, 1, 5, 6, 7 = 19.

Coates wins the Regimental Cup, and Tuff the cup for the first Subaltern past the post riding his own horse.

A good day and a good gathering of friends. General and Mrs. Finch-Hatton, the Misses Finch-Hatton, Colonel J. V. R. Jackson, Lt.-Colonels Lucas, Beavor and Guy Lee, and their ladies, Capt. and Mrs. Causton, Capt. and Mrs. Wale, from the Depot, Capt. and Mrs. Fox and Capt. Oliver and Mr. Craig, all came to join the 2nd Battalion party who were there en masse, with their wives, with their friends and in many cases with their parents.

The Royal Engineers very kindly allowed us to use their well run tea tent, and our best thanks are due to their Point-to-Point Committee for allowing us to have this race, and for their great help.

It has already been fixed up tentatively for next year.

Army Cross-Country Championship, 1936.

On Sunday, 15th March, the Battalion cross-country team proceeded to Tidworth to compete in their ninth successive championship and to try and regain the title they lost last year.

Monday, 16th March was spent in walking a part of the course. It was soon realised that the country to be covered would be very hilly, at the same time likely to be fast, as the ground was mostly grass. During the first half mile, one extremely stiff hill had to be climbed, there were many others between the second and sixth mile.

On Tuesday, 17th March, before a large gathering which included General Sir John Burnett Stuart, G.O.C. in C. Southern Command, most of the officers of the Battalion and one coach of members of the Sergeants' Mess, the teams collected on the Polo Ground and prepared for the start.

The following teams had entered:—

Aldershot Command: 2nd Battalion The Bufs; 1st Battalion The South Staffordshire Regiment; 2nd Battalion The North Staffordshire Regiment; Eastern Command: 2nd Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment; 1st Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry; Northern Ireland District: 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment; Northern Command: 2nd Battalion King's Shropshire Regiment; Southern Command: 1st Battalion Suffolk Regiment; 1st Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment.

Twenty-nine individuals had entered, so a total field of 164 runners was competing. The number of teams being fewer this year, but the individuals being greater.

Each of the above teams were either the winners or runners up of their various command championships, so it will be seen that the standard is a very high one. At the same time we were always of the opinion that the strongest challenge would come from the other two Aldershot teams. The Welch Regiment were fairly confident that they had only one team to compete against. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, owing to the nature of their easy win in the Eastern Command were expecting to see Kent produce the first and second team, although they did not say which were to be first or second. In this effort it will be seen that Kent were again defeated by Staffordshire.

It may not be known generally that the Battalion team was without three of the first four men in last year's Army team. This was a big handicap to commence the season on, at the same time we did not worry about it but set about filling these places with very good men. The losing of such men as Franckham 4th, Inman 11th, Long 13th and Sgt. Bell 36th, was not easily overcome. As the season progressed it was thought that the team would be as well balanced as ever, this proved to be so; for this year the team succeeded in placing the scoring twelve in the first 41 team places, our best prior to this being twelve in 42 team places.

The runners were away to a fine start, passing above the Garrison cricket ground, skirting Andover Copse, then on to Bedlam plantation and turning just short of the gravel pit, then returning between Warren Farm and Kimpton Copse by Great and Little Perham Copses and making a wide circuit of Perham before reaching the five mile post on high ground. Near the

Isolation Hospital the runners had to turn again towards Andover Clump and high above Tidworth Station the field reached the sixth mile post, then skirting Andover Plantation and down into the Oval for the finish.

It was quite a warm day and many of the runners found the fast going and the hills too much for them. To us who had seen most of the course this could hardly be wondered at.

At the end of the first mile our team had managed to climb the hill as well as the remainder and were all looking fit enough for the other six miles to come.

At the four mile post, Watts was quite well placed and going well. Alnwick, however, was having a bad day and although still quite well placed from a team point of view, would not be able to obtain one of those lower places we know he is capable of getting. Swaine, Hayde, Percy, Sgts. Trinkwon and Hurley were all doing better than we expected. The remainder of the team were well placed, at the same time the South and North Staffs. and the Welch Regiment were not yet beaten. All three teams had several men well placed.

There still being another three miles to go from this point, it was thought that our team would gain ground as the race progressed. This proved to be correct, for I have never seen them race so hard right up to the post as they did on this occasion. Fortunately I ran into 2/Lieut. Edmeades at the six mile post and by the aid of his car reached the Oval by the time our fourth man had arrived there, having seen them all safely past the six mile post.

Although these men had been fighting it out over six and three-quarter miles over very hilly country and against the best opposition on quite a warm day, they were still fit for a great effort over the last quarter mile round the Oval. Many a time in years to come will these men tell the tale as to how they gained one, two, three and even four places over this last stretch. Never have men worked harder in forty-three minutes for the honour of the Regiment than these men did.

Watts was our first man to enter the Oval and he had done very well for his eighth place in the Army. He has been most consistent throughout the season and well deserved his Army Badge and his selection to represent the Army in the Inter-Services Championship, for which he will receive his Army Colours.

Unfortunately Alnwick was one of the only two members of the team to have a bad day, at the same time he was placed 18th in the whole field, perhaps the hills were too much on this occasion, for Alnwick is capable of putting up a good race as his effort in the Aldershot Command Championship will show. Anyway, there are many more good days to come. Alnwick may yet run in the Inter-Services, owing to his previous form.

Swaine had run a great race and although just outside the Army Badge standard came very near to success.

Sgt. Trinkwon, being one of the older members of the team (although Sgt. Hurley has it on record that he has one Army Championship to the good), had done extremely well for his 16th team place and made amends for his defeat in the command championship. Whilst on the subject of age, it must be remembered that a cross-country runner is at his best between the age of 26 years to about 34 years. Sgt. Sutherland, the Army Champion, being a good example.

Then came Hayde, who by his 20th team place has shown that he has definitely got over that habit of giving in on the hills. This was a great effort and did much towards our success. Quite a different story from last year.

L/Sgt. Hurley and Percy came together, and in fighting out their own battle succeeded in passing many of our rivals on the track. Their's was a great effort.

Sgt. Hurley's return to form this year has helped a lot towards our success. Percy will even do better in years to come, providing he keeps on trying as hard in the future as he has done in the past.

Cpl. Philpott obtained his best place to date, this being a great improvement on the result of the Command Race. It would appear that he found that the hilly country suited him. I only hope that he continues to do well in the future.

White was our only other member of the team besides Alnwick to have a bad day. These bad days will always occur, after all, 35th team place was not so bad. White can and will do much better, it was just his only bad race of the whole season.

Joynson, L/Cpl. Skinner and Howsham had all done extremely well, being the last three scoring members of the team did much towards our success. To be the 10th, 11th and 12th men in a team and to gain 38th, 40th and 41st places is no mean performance.

Our non-scoring members were Skinner, 75th, L/Cpl. Dudley, 77th and L/Sgt. Belson, 100th. Now all three are capable of doing something much better, and had all gone well with them in the race, might easily have been well up.

RESULT.

Winners. 2nd Battalion The Buffs	...	...	298
2nd. 1st Battalion The South Staffordshire Regt.	...	...	447
3rd. 2nd Battalion The North Staffordshire Regt.	...	...	460
4th. 1st Battalion The Welch Regt.	...	...	547
5th. 2nd Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt.	...	...	577
6th. 1st Battalion The Suffolk Regt.	...	...	706
7th. 1st Battalion Royal Sussex Regt.	...	...	767
8th. 2nd Battalion The King's Shropshire Regt.	...	...	1156
9th. 1st Battalion The Oxford and Bucks L.I.	...	...	1162

2nd Bn. The Buffs: Team Places.

Pte. G. Watts	...	4	Pte. B. White	...	35
Pte. R. Alnwick	...	12	Pte. G. Joynson	...	38
Pte. J. Swaine	...	14	L/Cpl. W. Skinner	...	40
Sgt. A. Trinkwon	...	16	Pte. S. Howsham	...	41
Pte. L. Hayde	...	20			
L/Sgt. T. Hurley	...	24	Total	...	298
Pte. J. Percy	...	25			
Cpl. H. Philpott	...	29			

Not counted in: Pte. G. Skinner, 75; L/Cpl. R. Dudley, 77; L/Sgt. P. Belson, 100.

At the conclusion of the race the Army Cross-Country Challenge Cup was presented to our Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel A. B. Thomson, by General Sir J. T. Burnett-Stuart, G.O.C. in C. Southern Command, who also presented the winning medals to each member of the team, this being the fourth occasion we have had the honour of receiving the winners' medals.

The team returned to Bordon on Wednesday, 18th March, where they were met by the band and received by the Battalion.

On Thursday, 19th March, a dinner was held in the N.A.A.F.I. to do honour to the occasion. The Commanding Officer visited the team and complimented them on their very fine effort. At the same time the messages of congratulation which had been received were read out and passed to the team.

At the conclusion of the dinner the team were welcomed to the Sergeants' Mess by R.S.M. Ransley, where they were able to drink the health of the Members of the Mess on their success and to see the Cup safely returned to its old resting place for another year.

At the beginning of the season I wrote that it would be necessary this year to keep out of some of those open events we had entered for in previous years in order to try and regain the Army Championship. Our success, no doubt, was mostly due to this policy. To all those who have trained with the team during the past season I am most grateful for their support. Many

continued to train hard over nearly seven months, when they almost knew that they had no chance of getting in the team. Without these reserves we should not get very far.

Our record in the Army Cross-Country Championship is as follows:—

		Points	
1928	5th	779	Aldershot.
1929	5th	787	Tidworth.
1930	3rd	629	Windsor.
1931	2nd	439	Bordon.
1932	Winners	274	Tidworth.
1933	Winners	288	Colchester.
1934	Winners	219	Windsor.
1935	2nd	362	Aldershot.
1936	Winners	298	Tidworth.

Congratulatory messages have been received from the following:—

Major-General Sir Arthur Lynden-bell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Colonel of The Buffs; General Hon. Sir J. F. Gathorne-Hardy, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C., G.O.C. in C. Aldershot Command; Major-General C. C. Armitage, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., G.O.C. 1st Division; Brigadier P. J. Mackesy, D.S.O., M.C., Commander 3rd Infantry Brigade; Colonel the Hon. P. G. Scarlett, M.C., The Buffs, G.S.O.1., Western Command; All ranks, Depot, The Buffs; Captain T. H. Spear, Adjutant, 2nd Battalion The Buffs (On tour); Captain A. F. St. A. Turner, late The Buffs; London Branch Past and Present Association; Captain J. E. King, The Buffs, Adjutant, Manchester University O.T.C.; Mr. C. E. Vaughan, M.B.E., late R.S.M.; Lieut. W. A. Hastie, Depot, The Lincolnshire Regiment (trainer of winning team 1935).

On April 25th, the Battalion will compete in the London to Brighton Relay for the fourth year.

Entry is by invitation, the event being organised by *The News of the World*. This year the race will start from Mitcham and not from Big Ben as in the past.

All members of the Cross-Country team are looking forward to this race, at present a few are on a short leave, but on their return they will go into training for the event.

A.V.O.

Cross-Country Notes.

The notes of last month were closed with the result of the run against the 2nd Battalion The East Yorkshire Regiment, in which the team recorded a good win. Our next run was at Aldershot against the 2nd Battalion, The Wiltshire Regiment, on the 11th February.

Once again the team ran a very good race and succeeded in occupying the first seventeen places, except the third place. Watts was in the lead throughout, but was closely followed by Alnwick. Then came the first Wiltshire representative, being closely followed by Hayde and Percy. After this came the remainder of the team.

RESULT.

2nd Bn. The Buffs.		2nd Bn. The Wiltshire Regt.	
Pte. Watts	... 1	L/Cpl. Haldron	... 3
Pte. Alnwick	... 2	L/Cpl. Gilford	... 18
Pte. Hayde	... 4	Pte. Reddish	... 21
Pte. Percy	... 5	Pte. Robbins	... 22
Pte. Howsham	... 6	Pte. Baggs	... 23
Pte. Payne	... 7	Pte. Miller	... 24
L/Cpl. Dudley	... 8	Pte. Peney	... 25
Pte. Joynson	... 9	Pte. Barton	... 26
Cpl. Philpott	... 10	Pte. Wood	... 27
L/Cpl. Skinner	... 11	Pte. Gosling	... 28
L/Sgt. Hurley	... 12	Pte. Caine	... 29
Sgt. Trinkwon	... 13	Pte. Legg	... 30
Total	... 88	Total	... 276

The next event was another of those annual runs when every man is out for his best place—The Bordon Inter-Company Run. This race is open to each company in Bordon, a team of fifteen to run, with the first twelve to count.

The course was one of 3½ miles. "C" Company were the holders of the Bordon Inter-Company Cup, and were able to put out a strong team. "S" Company, however, were thought to be strong challengers, although they had to be content with second place to "C" Company, they had given them a good race. The Battalion succeeded in placing four company teams in the first five places. H.Q. Wing, who are unable to gather the younger runners like the other companies, being eleventh. This was a very good demonstration of our all round standard at this particular branch of sport.

On this occasion Alnwick was away at a flying pace. This was the day I had been looking forward to for some time. I was sure it was to come sooner or later. Ever since this race Alnwick has been running in his true form. I should say that he has considerably improved since last year. Watts made a bold effort to keep him in sight. Then came most of the Battalion runners, with just the odd man of other units amongst them. A very fine race and a very good day for the Battalion.

RESULT.

	Points
1st. "C" Company, 2nd Battalion The Buffs	... 410
2nd. "S" Company, 2nd Battalion The Buffs	... 455
3rd. "B" Company, Royal Irish Fusiliers	... 762
4th. "B" Company, 2nd Battalion The Buffs	... 893
5th. "A" Company, 2nd Battalion The Buffs	... 1002
6th. "C" Company, 2nd Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers	... 1052
7th. "C" Company, Royal Irish Fusiliers	... 1100
8th. H.Q., 2nd Battalion Cameronians	... 1307
9th. "S" Company, 2nd Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers	... 1358
10th. "D" Company, Royal Irish Fusiliers	... 1385
11th. H.Q., 2nd Battalion, The Buffs	... 1411
12th. "A" Company, Royal Irish Fusiliers	... 1563
13th. "B" Company, 2nd Battalion Cameronians	... 1715
14th. H.Q., Royal Irish Fusiliers	... 1819

Eighteen teams competed in the run.

Individual Places:—

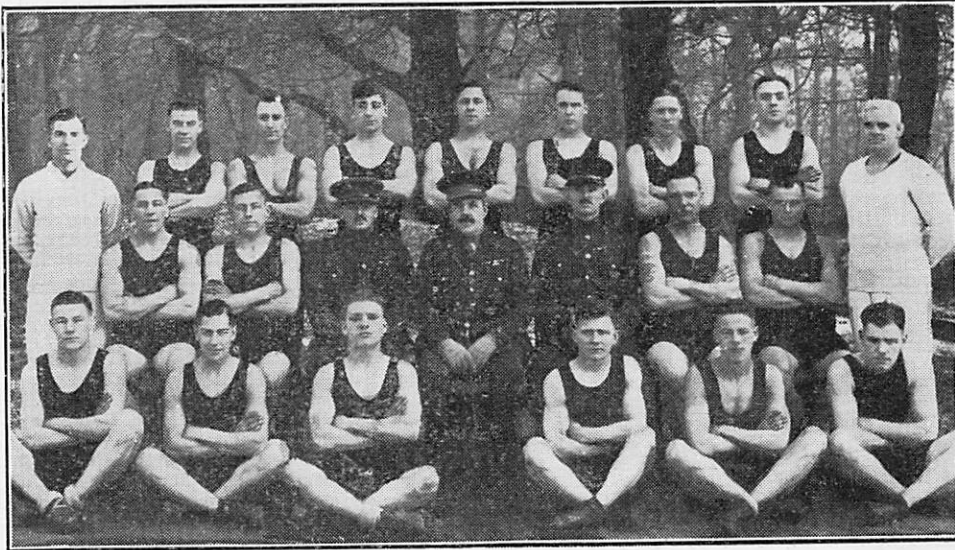
2nd Battalion The Buffs.			
Pte. Alnwick	... 1	Pte. Swaine	... 8
Pte. Watts	... 2	L/Sgt. Hurley	... 10
Pte. Hayde	... 3	L/Cpl. Dudley	... 11
Pte. White	... 4	Pte. Percy	... 12
Sgt. Trinkwon	... 5	Cpl. Philpott	... 15
Pte. Skinner	... 7	Pte. Howsham	... 16

Our next event was a notable one. A return fixture with our old and very friendly rivals the 2nd Battalion, The D.C.L.I. This race was held at Bordon on 24th February, over our six miles course, which was marked by direction targets for the first time on a battalion course, although this method of marking a cross country course has been in use for the Army and Command Championships for the past two years.

When running this team at the beginning of the season, our team succeeded in winning by 43 points. So for the return run the whole team were out for a hard race to try and see what our chances were going to be against them in the coming championship.

Alnwick was soon in the lead, but at the half distance, Pte. Jewell, D.C.I.I., was about 30 yards in rear. Then came a nice group of our men led by Watts, Swaine, White, Hayde and Skinner, all were going well. After about 4½ miles Alnwick was still in the lead, but Jewell had closed the gap considerably. The remainder of our team were going well at this point and one could see that they were going to score another good win.

**2nd Battalion The Buffs Boxing Team.
Semi-finalists, Command Team Championship.**



Block kindly lent by the Aldershot Command News.

- Back Row (L. to R.)*—
C.S.M. G. Johnson, Pte. C. Humphrey, Cpl. H. O'Leary, L/Cpl. P. Livemore, Pte. S. Cohen, Pte. A. Cooke, Pte. R. Wallace, Pte. L. Parry, J. ("Dusty") Miller.
- Middle Row (L. to R.)*—
Pte. G. Darlow, Pte. G. Johnson, Major N. D. Rice, Lt.-Col. A. B. Thomson, M.B.E., R.S.M. P. Ransley, Sgt. H. Martin, L/Cpl. E. Tiley.
- Front Row (L. to R.)*—
L/Cpl. H. Cowley, L/Cpl. E. Rix, Pte. F. Spelman, Pte. T. Lavery, Pte. A. Perry, Pte. J. Prandy.

Coming up the hill about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from home Alnwick and Jewell were together, however, Jewell managed to arrive at the finish just in front of Alnwick. These two had run an excellent race. Except for Sgts. Trinkwon and Belson, who were recovering from colds, all our team had a good day, and all appeared to be well set for the Command Championship.

After the race the teams had tea in the N.A.A.F.I., where many a past race was fought out again. In this respect our team contain many more of the runners that raced in the days when both Battalions were side by side in Marlborough Lines.

2nd Bn. The Buffs.		2nd Bn. The D.C.L.I.	
Pte. Alnwick ...	1	Pte. Jewell ...	1
Pte. Watts ...	2	Pte. Curtis ...	8
Pte. Swaine ...	4	Pte. Mathews ...	11
Pte. White ...	5	Pte. Ryder ...	12
Pte. Hayde ...	6	Pte. Hamlyn ...	15
Pte. Skinner ...	7	Pte. Roxborough ...	17
L/Cpl. Hurley ...	9	L/Cpl. Johns ...	19
Pte. Peary ...	10	Lieut. Meynell ...	20
Cpl. Philpott ...	13	2/Lieut. Vawdrey ...	21
L/Cpl. Dudley ...	14	Pte. Smith ...	23
L/Cpl. Skinner ...	16	Pte. Duckett ...	24
Pte. Joynson ...	18	Pte. Bent ...	25
Total ...	107	Total ...	196

On the 27th February we had an away fixture with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and the Royal Irish Fusiliers. This run was held over the Royal Irish Fusiliers' Course. For this run we had out all our reserve runners, who were supported by some of the leading runners.

Once again Alnwick was an easy winner. Watts being second and Hayde fourth. Our runners were not over doing it, as they were due for a hard race on the 29th February.

RESULT.		
2nd Bn. The Buffs.	2nd R.N. Fus.	Royal Irish Fus.
Pte. Alnwick ...	1	Fus. McCullon 10
Pte. Watts ...	2	Fus. McBride, 09 14
Pte. Hayde ...	4	L/Cpl. Hampton 20
L/Cpl. Dudley ...	6	Fus. Rush ... 21
L/Cpl. Skinner ...	7	L/S. McKinney 22
Pte. White ...	8	Lt. Bryne ... 23
L/Sgt. Belson ...	12	Fus. Ryan ... 26
Pte. Collins ...	13	Fus. Hatchell 28
Pte. Fast ...	16	Fus. Lennard 34
Pte. Joynson ...	17	L/Cpl. Brodwin 36
Pte. Rose ...	18	Fus. McBride, 41 35
L/Cpl. Dixon ...	24	L/Cpl. Deak ... 37
Total ...	128	Total ...
Total ...	251	Total ...
		306

About this time came a request from the 2nd Battalion, The North Staffordshire Regiment, to give them a run at Aldershot. In view of the Command Championship taking place on the 6th March, it was thought that a race of this standard on 29th February might prove just a little too close to the Command Race. Therefore I trust our readers will believe that we accepted with extreme caution.

Although we have met and defeated this team on many occasions over a number of years in the Army Championship, we had never had the opportunity of a friendly run. Therefore it was most desirable to accept and show that we are always keen for a good run.

Unfortunately this meant that some of our runners had to race three times in one week, which was not so good.

Before going further, I should say that the South Staffords had beaten the North Staffords on four occasions, and both had beaten the D.C.L.I. In fact, the South Staffords were strong favourites for the Command run, with the North Staffords to give them a hard race. The Buffs, who had lost Frankham, had fallen on evil times and were hardly likely to be in the picture—some people thought.

Getting back to this particular run, Alnwick and Watts were able to keep in the lead without any difficulty, but the remainder were finding that their opponents were putting up a hard race, and unfortunately took it just a bit too easy to enable our team to win. Now this result caused a complete upheaval in the whole Command; except to the members of our team who were well aware of the cause for such a result.

RESULT.

2nd Bn. The Buffs.					
Pte. Alnwick	...	1	L/Cpl. Skinner	...	21
Pte. Watts	...	2	L/Sgt. Hurley	...	22
Pte. Percy	...	6	Pte. Joynson	...	23
Pte. Swaine	...	7	Pte. Payne	...	30
L/Cpl. Dudley	...	9			
Pte. Skinner	...	12	Total	...	167
Cpl. Philpott	...	16			
Pte. Howsham	...	18			

2nd Bn. The North Staffordshire Regt.

Placings: 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20.
Total ... 139.

Now we come to the eagerly awaited Command Championship which was held at Aldershot on 6th March. The race started from the Queen's Avenue, and finished at the same place. There was a large gathering of spectators which included many of our past officers. Unfortunately I usually find much to occupy my time just before the race and am not always aware of all those attending; I should like to say that the teams always consider themselves greatly honoured to find that their efforts are deserving of such support. Amongst many others one saw Colonel J. V. R. Jackson and Col. and Mrs. Guy Lee. Capt. and Mrs. Wale had once again made the journey from London. Unfortunately several officers and other ranks were left at Bordon owing to the Preliminary Rounds of the Inter-Unit Bayonet Combat and the Tug-of-War being held on the same afternoon.

At 3 p.m. the race was started by Brigadier E. F. Norton, D.S.O., M.C., and 258 runners in their various regimental colours made a fine sight racing away across the Queen's Avenue. At Norris Bridge, just over three miles, Alnwick appears in sight, being closely followed by Pte. Jewell, D.C.I.I., together with Pte. Pick of the South Staffords. Just behind came Watts and White. Swaine, Hayde and Sgt. Hurley all came by well up in the race. At the same time the South Staffords were going by in two nice groups and were quite close enough to make a hard race of it. Apart from this team our men had got a good lead over the remainder.

About a mile from the finish Alnwick and Jewell (D.C.I.I.) were together again; unfortunately Alnwick fell at a ditch when entering the last field. However, Alnwick had run a very hard and good race, having had to make the pace the whole way, and was eventually one place better than last year. Watts was coming up fast and succeeded in gaining third place. White had done very well indeed for his fifth place. Swaine had been coming up all the way over the last three miles and his eighth place was well earned. Then we get Hayde at 12th, L/Sgt. Hurley 13th, which gave us our first scoring six; these had done much towards the final result.

The South Staffords had only two men up, their next five were together, but too far back to be any good. Sgt. Trinkwon succeeded in getting amongst this pack at the finish. Percy, L/Cpl. Dudley and Howsham had all done very well. I am sure that Cpl. Philpott and G. Skinner will do better in the Army. Joynson, although not in the first twelve, had done well. L/Cl. Skinner can do better and I hope this is so for the Army Championship. So after a hard race, one was of the opinion that the team had done enough to win. This proved to be correct as the following result will show.

RESULT.

	Points
Winners. 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (holders)	260
2nd. 1st Battalion South Staffordshire Regt. ...	399
3rd. 2nd Battalion North Staffordshire Regt. ...	540
4th. 2nd Battalion The D.C.L.I. ...	664
5th. 2nd Battalion The Hampshire Regt. ...	954
6th. 1st Battalion The Worcestershire Regt. ...	1156
7th. 2nd Battalion The West Yorkshire Regt. ...	1401
8th. 2nd Battalion The Wiltshire Regt. ...	1447
9th. 1st Battalion The Durham Light Infantry	1486
10th. 2nd Battalion The East Yorkshire Regt. ...	1507
11th. 1st Divisional Signals ...	1636
12th. 2nd Battalion The King's Own Royal Regt. ...	1664
13th. 2nd Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regt. ...	1692
14th. 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh Fusiliers	1709
15th. 2nd Battalion The Royal Northumberland Fus.	1868
16th. The Royal Irish Fusiliers ...	1905
17th. 3rd Battalion The Coldstream Guards ...	2466

2nd Battalion The Buffs: Team Placings.

Pte. Alnwick	...	2nd.	Sgt. Trinkwon	...	25th.
Pte. Watts	...	3rd.	Pte. Percy	...	29th.
Pte. White	...	5th.	L/Cpl. Dudley	...	32nd.
Pte. Swaine	...	8th.	Pte. Howsham	...	39th.
Pte. Hayde	...	12th.	Pte. Skinner	...	45th.
L/Sgt. Hurley	...	13th.	Cpl. Philpott	...	47th.
Total				...	260.

The following were awarded their Command Cross-Country Badge, 1936. These badges are awarded to the first fifteen runners in the Command Championship:—Pte. R. Alnwick, Pte. G. Watts, Pte. L. Hayde, Pte. J. Swaine, Pte. B. White, L/Sgt. T. Hurley.

The winning of this Command Championship was the sixth in succession, four times the Eastern Command and twice the Aldershot Command. This means that the team will compete in the Army Championship at Tidworth on 17th March, being the ninth successive time they have qualified for this race.

A.V.O.

Hockey.

Weather has again played a big part in this month's fixtures. Several matches have had to be cancelled in consequence.

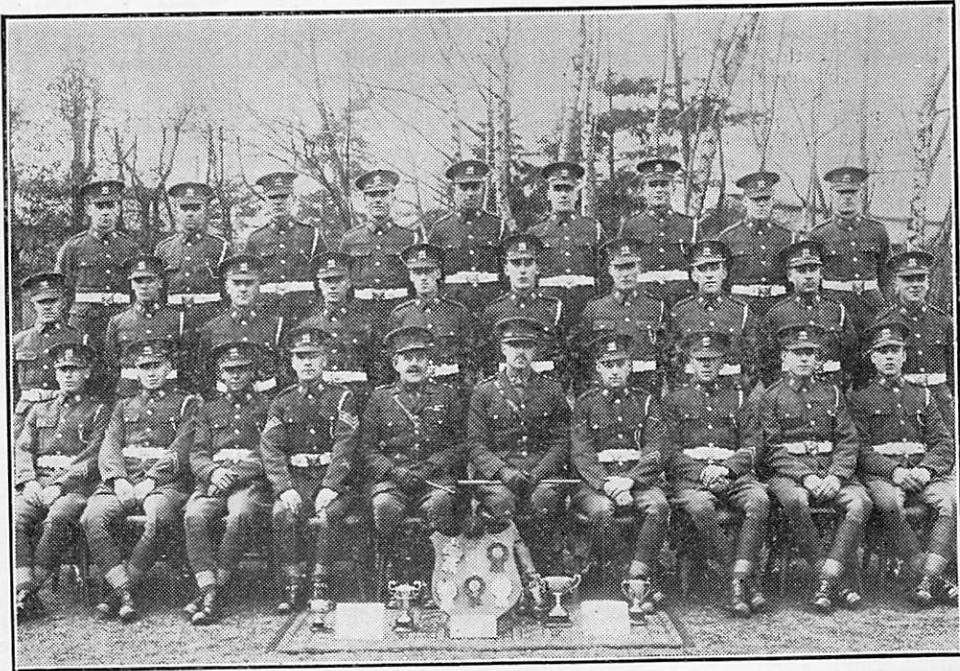
The Inter-Company League has been completed with the exception of one match—"24" versus "C," and at present it is almost certain that "S" Company and "24" Company will tie for first place and have to play off again. In the league these two companies drew at 1—1, so the replay ought to be exciting.

The Battalion team beat the D.C.I.I. by 3—2, playing away. This was an excellent result as very few people had had much practice beforehand.

Last week we visited the R.M.C., Sandhurst and suffered a crushing defeat by 11—1. It was an eye-opener for the whole team, and they must have benefited considerably by the experience. Hard hitting, quick passing and really good positional play was too much for our defence. We played them a return on March 12th at home and this time succumbed by 7—2.

LABORE.

2nd Battalion The Buffs Horse Transport Section.



Block kindly lent by the Aldershot Command News.

Back Row (L. to R.)—

Pte. C. Cox, Pte. J. Avery, Pte. J. Kelly, Pte. Young, Pte. F. Leadbeater, Pte. J. Hurst,
Pte. L. Underwood, Pte. W. Drury, Pte. C. Gorse.

Centre Row (L. to R.)—

Pte. T. Wisdom, Pte. L. Earl, Pte. R. Collins, Pte. J. Palmer, Pte. J. Collins, Pte. E. Godfrey,
Pte. S. Hukins, Pte. E. Cooper, Pte. A. Hobbins, L/Cpl. L. Songhurst.

Front Row (L. to R.)—

Pte. J. Millen, Pte. S. Haynes, Pte. L. Curtis, Sgt. L. Goodsell, Lt.-Col. A. B. Thompson,
M.B.E., Capt. and Adj. T. H. Spear, L/Cpl G. Doe, Pte. E. Emptage, Pte. A. Bell,
Pte. W. Fagg.

Sergeants' Mess.

After a very subdued period of six weeks, things are beginning to brighten up again; warmer weather has brought to a close the hibernating season and absentees of the past few months are gradually returning to the fold, assisted by the "Annual Roundup," officially termed "Sergeants' Week." The indoor committee has once more started to chalk interesting announcements on the What's-on board.

On February 27th we entertained the Bordon tradesmen to a series of games in the Mess. Oh yes! Bordon really has some tradesmen, with some good sportsmen amongst them, the result being ample proof. The following games were played—Snooker, Euchre, Crib, Darts, Solo and Push-Pice. Euchre seemed to be well patronized and many of the "old-uns" were to be seen "sitting tight." The final total of points showed a draw at 22 each, thus honour was satisfied.

Our "Master Shearer," Tom Moore, and our "Master Dhurzie," Jimmie Hamer, went over to the enemy on this occasion and assisted to pile the points against us. Next time we are thinking of lodging an objection on the grounds of residential qualifications.

Light refreshments were served during the evening, waiters were on full time, and everybody appeared to go home "full of the joy of spring."

The 3rd March was a red-letter day for the "Euch-Wallahs," when a drive was held in the mess specially for them. Invitations were sent to neighbouring messes and local honorary members, and these were well responded to. Four tables were on the go and plenty of expert playing was witnessed. Two members of the Cameronians walked away with the 1st and 2nd prizes, after a draw for 1st. C.S.M. Johnson and Mr. Bud King shared the 3rd, while "Billy" Banks was rewarded with the "Booby."

Supper, which included "Scotch Eggs" and chips, was served and made quite a welcome break.

These drives are becoming popular, so more members will have to strive to master the noble art of "sitting on the fence," etc.

We frequently hear from Syd Bills, who is with the Sierra Leone Battalion R.W.A.F.F., at Freetown.

At present he is doing acting "Millionaire," and from all accounts having a good time. From snaps received, the native troops appear to be smart and soldierlike; no doubt they are on extra range-finding instructions since he arrived. He hopes for a spot of leave (six months) next February, more "Government Waste"; however, he is sure of standing room in the "Buggy Hole," his mark is still there.

A Whist Drive and Dance, the first this year, was held in the Mess on March 10th. The attendance was fair, twelve tables being filled. The prize winners being as follows:—

LADIES.—1st prize, Mrs. Sirett; 2nd, prize, Mrs. Plimmer; 3rd prize, Mrs. Petley; 1st half sweep, Mrs. Sirett; 2nd half sweep, Mrs. Petley.

GENTS.—1st prize, I/Sgt. Solway; 2nd prize, R.Q.M.S. Ricketts; 3rd, prize, Mr. Jacobson; 1st half sweep, Sgt. Trinkwon; 2nd half sweep, I/Sgt. Solway; Booby Prize, Sgt. Crouch with the magnificent score of 103, the prize turned out to be a "Jammy" affair.

The prizes were kindly presented by Mrs. Ransley. A very lively dance then followed, which continued until 1 a.m. The "Canadian Crawl" was introduced. Yes! it started off as a crawl, yet I tremble to think what it might have developed into had our mess been twice as large.

C.S.M. and Mrs. Saunders are booked for T.A., Dover. "Cabby" is already taking over, yet managed to arrive for the dance. We wish them every success in the future.

TOUCHSTONE.

Corporals' Room.

I feel intensely thankful for the trooping season and the comings and goings that are very numerous at this time of the year, for they provide me with some foundation upon which to erect my house of brick(bats) this month. Prominent among recent arrivals have been four N.C.O.'s from the 1st Battalion, namely Cpl. Hall and I/Cpls. Lane, Watts and Holness. The Mess is so mixed these days as regards the 1st and 2nd Battalion N.C.O.'s that they will find many amongst our number who are close acquaintances of earlier days, and we hope they have been heartily welcomed back to the Old Country, and sampled our best brands of nectar! At the present time they should be enjoying a few weeks leave, after which we hope we will see a lot of them and trust they will be able to find no faults with our mess or its members.

Charles Kelly, who for some time now has been easy meat for that little vixen Cupid (is vixen feminine?) has departed from us for a temporary stay with the Royal Corps of Signals at Catterick, to which unit he has been selected for attachment as an Assistant Instructor. Good luck to you, Charley, and keep writing—to us of course, please yourself about her. "Schnozzle" Livemore, full of vim and vigour, is receiving instruction in the art of muscle-busting at the School of P.T., at Aldershot and no doubt by now has a pair of biceps unrivalled in the district. I/Cpl. Sedgewick has departed also on that course which presages imminent departure from the Army—vocational training. Brick-laying is his choice of a trade whereby he hopes to earn his bread and butter on leaving us, so he will be keeping our old friend Paddy Scallan company for awhile. We have been very glad to see something of our "Bit of Oireland" from time to time, evidence that he can't keep away from us for long. We have been sorry to hear that he has had a few bouts of malaria recently, but any misgivings we may have on that score are easily diminished on account of the fact that these bouts always coincide with his weed-end visits!

News came of an old comrade through Orders the other day. Carmichael was the name that caught my eye and further investigation showed that he has passed out of Sandhurst successfully and gone to the Indian Army, where we hope he will find life very interesting and enjoy the best of health and good luck. On a recent visit to the Royal Military College several of the lads were pleased to find Dicky Frye (or rather he found them) and ascertained from him that he was getting on very well, but life was extremely strenuous.

Congratulations to Cpl. Taylor on stepping up another rung in the ladder—a thing worth having is worth waiting for, eh, Squeaker? Good wishes also to Church on receiving Pay of Appointment and to I/Cpls. King, Hannaford, Williams and Beal on their first appointments. Williams, we know, is a tried "old sweat" who can be relied upon to keep the brewery shares at their customary high level, but we hope all will soon be thoroughly at home in the Corporals' Room.

Practice has started for the P.T. display for the Aldershot Tattoo, in which the Battalion is taking part this year. Everybody bar Lackery Woods, Sr. has been sorted out for these P.T. parades to the consternation of certain married N.C.O.'s and others who thought they were immune from the P.T. bug or had ideas that "out of sight was out of mind." Soon I can visualise ancient and crabbed C.Q.M.-Sgts., venerable Sergeants and muscle-bound (!) Corporals going through P.T. "routines" and sequences in the intervals of making out Pay Lists and carrying out the multitudinous duties which daily fall to our lot. Never should a soldier complain through lack of variety in life.

To the intense disgust of all those affected, P.E. tests were revived during February for the benefit of those who thought they had successfully evaded them for another year. "Lackery" Woods and Mike O'Leary were among those I noted toiling round the five laps in valiant style.

Our Corporals' Training Week this year was devoted entirely to shooting, not with the object solely of improving the standard of the Corporals' shooting, but of improving the coaching; in other words we were put on the right lines as to how to get the best out of each individual man who might find himself reliant on any one of us as a coach. The Week started off with a day of lectures and demonstrations calculated to show what was the right and the wrong method of doing things, and although the amusing side was always uppermost in the demonstrations we think their lessons were absorbed by all who were able to witness them. "Lackery" Woods, of Sports Store fame, gave an only too true "act" of how the average young "blood" would re-act to a good and a bad coach in turn, and when I add that the "bad" coach was Sgt. Bell I am sure I can leave the remainder to speak for itself. Woods' "Blimey, Sarge, I've got a Bull" was received in appreciable manner, no less than the whole demonstration itself. Subsequent to the lectures was four days' shooting on No. 1 Range, whereto we marched each morning and returned in similar manner after the day's shooting. We had, of course, every intention of learning as much as possible from the opportunity thus given, but the humorous side of things was nearly always uppermost and was seized upon times out of number by such people as Brother Wicks, Sparkes, etc., to the amusement of listeners and onlookers. The Range work was split up into two sections. The first was a series of practices similar to the Annual Course and the second was an Individual Championship. For the former firers were divided into Syndicates and on the conclusion of firing the Syndicate with the best average was adjudged the winning Syndicate and received Spoons as mementoes of their effort. 'Gus' Gilding and his merry tribe walked away with the spoons, but the next two Syndicates were only "point something" behind, so the competition was very keen. The Individual Shoot was for a Challenge Cup most kindly presented by the Commanding Officer. It was revealed to us when the cup was presented to Cpl. O'Leary that three Corporals had tied for total points, but in accordance with A.R.A. Rules the N.C.O. with the best "Snap" score was given the decision, and the two others, Cpl. Pilcher and I/Cpl. Krailing were presented with medals.

The Band.

The potentialities of Hot Rhythm are revealed when you enter the practice room and hear someone socking out the Symphonic Foxtrot, "Samum." What a number! a cold shiver passes down my back as I sit and try to write these notes. Why don't you try to play jazz?

With my instrument under my arm I walk the room and wonder what my notes will be like—something like my musical ones, I suppose—rotten.

With regard to sport this month, we have only played a few football matches, but in hockey we eagerly await the result of our last game, so that we can decide with "S" Company who will hold the Hockey Shield for the coming season. So far we have played four games, won three, drawn one, and have only "C" Company to play.

One day last month a Bandsman was seen to enter the tailor's shop with a bundle of coats under his arm; alas, he was no longer "Happy," but L/Cpl. F. Williams. We hope he will stay with us for a long time to come, and hope some day to see him as our Band Sergeant.

The Band Sergeant has left us for a long course on Vivisection—I am sorry, I mean first aid—still, it is all the same in the long run, you learn the "ins" and "outs" of the body, and how to reach top G on the strings of the heart. We hope Sgt. Baker will get through all right and assist us to win the Connaught Shield this year.

Congratulations to Bandsman W. Dixon on his engagement; we wish him the very best in his new sphere of life.

We welcome into the Band the members of the 1st Battalion who have just arrived home, and we hope they will soon settle down to the English climate.

T.A.R.

The Drums.

We welcome to the 2nd Battalion Dmr. Dowling, Newington, Eggleton, Dotson and Kember, who have recently joined us from the 1st Battalion.

We sincerely hope that they will soon settle down in the surroundings that to us are similar to those in Burma—"Jungle."

Dmr. Dotson had the misfortune to fall out of his hammock during the voyage home to England and damaged his shoulder. He was taken to Netley Hospital.

I am glad to say he is now enjoying a spot of leave along with the remainder.

Congratulations to Dmr. Eltham on winning the Commanding Officer's Bugle in the last quarterly competition. He certainly has succeeded at last; also to Pte. Webster on winning the Young Hands' Class.

Elsie again comes into these notes for we cannot let his marriage go by without our usual wishes being extended to him and his wife.

Marriage seems to be taking the "Drums" by storm. There are not many left who can be styled as "single."

L/Cpl. Sedgwick has left us to undergo his Vocational Course at Aldershot. He will be missed, as he has rendered good service to the Drums.

Congratulations to Dmr. P. Beal on his being appointed L/Corporal.

The sporting notes cannot be overlooked this month. In the Hockey "24" Company (Band and Drums) have done very well. Here is the list of results:—

- v. "B" Company, won 3—1 (D.M. Banks 3).
- v. "B" Company, won 2—0 (D.M. Banks 2).
- v. "S" Company, drew 1—1 (D.M. Banks 1).
- v. "A" Company, won 8—2 (D.M. Banks 5, B.M. Foster 2, Bds. Rowcliffe 1).

We have yet to play "C" Company, and if we are successful we will have to play "S" Company again to decide who will have the Hockey Shield.

The following of the Drums have represented the Company in Hockey this season:—D.M. Banks, Dmr. Garratta, Dmr. Dunbar, Dmr. McGilley.

Our next is the Bayonet Fencing; here, too, we did exceptionally well, considering the way we are handicapped in picking our team. Nevertheless, we reached the final only to be beaten by "A" Company. Here are the results:—

- v. "S" Company, won 6 fights to 4.
- v. "C" Company, won 7 fights to 3.
- Final v. "A" Company, lost 2 fights to 8.

We congratulate "A" Company on their good show and we certainly were defeated by a very good team. Anyhow, it reversed the hockey result. Here is the team:—D.M. Banks, Cpls. Pilcher and Ireland, Bds. Rayment, Dmr. Garratta, Pte. Gardner, Bds. Ritchardson, Pte. Browne, Bds. Rutter, and Pte. Clarke.

The Drums have played a few football matches, and they have not been so successful on account of the weakness of the team.

We welcome to the Company our new C.S.M., namely C.S.M. Cox. A good few of us remember him as Signal Sergeant at Portland.

To the Drums of the 1st Battalion we send our best wishes.

A.J.B.

Signal Section.

Our regular scribe having left us, it falls to a somewhat rusty hand to produce these notes. The month has been notable chiefly for interruptions to normal routine, some entailing F.S.M.O., others by way of a change, P.T. kit. Most of the section are pretty good at the various "series" now, or so they think anyway.

The old hands have returned from their alternative occupations—caretakers, C.I.D., etcetera—and so we muster a fairly hefty crowd again. Absentees at present are L/Cpl. Paine and Murray on sick leave, Woolford in hospital, and Jones, who is at present doing servant to the Company Commander. This latter, by the way, as the result of our old friend Lequire, alias "Nasty," leaving the service to commence a business in Croydon.

There has been a good deal of sickness lately, Campbell and Ashdown spent some days in hospital, but are, fortunately, back with us now.

Wright ("Tubby" to some) has been active in arranging football matches, results of which were:—v. Transport, lost 2—1; v. Drums lost 2—1; v. 6 Platoon (twice) won 8—1 and 9—2; v. 8 Platoon, lost 5—3; and v. Northumberland Fusiliers, Drums, lost 7—1. Not a very imposing record we admit, but good, keen games just the same.

By the time these notes appear the annual Weapon Training Course will be uppermost in everybody's mind. We naturally hope to improve on last year's results by regaining some lost games, not to mention a few new ones.

We should like to hear some more about the 1st Battalion "menagerie." "Piggy" sucking a serpent seems pretty typical of that hair-brained youth, and that "Nils Desperandum," by the way, has a very familiar sound. Give us three guesses?

GLEBERE.

Employed Group.

Our departures this month have been few, Sgt. Thorndy-croft leaving us on transfer to "B" Company as a duty wallah. Jack Lequire also left us during the early part of the month and we hope that he will make a success of his new life as a "civvie." "Sweedie" Irvine has just joined the Group from "A" Company, and rumour hath it that this bright "erb" be the dart champion of the district. Oi, we be gettin' on, be we. (Note—Anyone desirous of challenging our "champ," should apply to his manager, "Badger" Coleman.)

P.T. has once again come into its own and graceful limbs are now enclosed in canvas slacks, greatly contributing to the comfort of our would be "nymphs." We are not sure, however, whether this new form of dress lessens or increases the wind resistance—perhaps our friends in the M.T. office will enlighten us on this technical point. The "Bordon Light Railway" was also caught napping, and from reports received, we understand that this mechanical engine vainly endeavoured, on his only appearance in public, to emulate "a bird on the wing." (P.T. Instructors, please note!)

Congratulations to L/Cpl. Chapman on his marriage and with them, the best wishes of the group.

SKIVER.

The Boys.

At football we have played some good games since you last heard from us. Take a good look at the following:—

- v. Cameronians, won 4—1.
- v. Cameronians, won 4—0.
- v. Royal Irish Fusiliers, won 8—2.
- v. Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, won 10—1.
- v. Royal Irish Fusiliers, won 9—1.

Don't you think that's rather good? Of course, Lewer was the one who did all the damage. Although he is in the Orderly Room, he finds bags of time for practice, he has been out every spare minute. We miss Gus's miraculous (?) saves though. Whilst we are on the sports subject, we offer our heartiest congratulations to the Battalion Running Team, for their fine display in the Aldershot Command cross-country run, especially to our own Cpl. Philpott. Well done, Corp., keep up the honour of the Boys' Room (note the capitals).

Mitchell, the jeweller, has acquired a cuckoo clock, and he sorts it out all day long to find out where the nest is. I don't know whether there are any eggs or not, but if there are we'll let you know when they hatch. Four of the more intelligent "hoboes" are sitting for their first-class certificates. I don't know about "swotting," it sounds more like a scrounge to me. Still, they'll learn. Dear old Tank has left us; we haven't heard from him since, but we hope he's O.K.

By the way, Reid has a new war cry, "Kee-gay." We think he means "Cuckoo," after the clock, but we wouldn't be sure.

"HAPPY" FARRELL.

"A" Company.

List, all ye who wish to hear
Our noble company's praise,
I tell the tale of a famous deed
Which has left us in a daze.

(With apologies to Macaulay.)

Excuse the verse, kind readers, but I plead to be forgiven, for at last we have proven ourselves victors in an inter-company tournament. This month we were successful in the Inter-Company Bayonet Fighting Competition, this being our first coup for many moons. Can we hope that at last the wheel of fortune has turned in our direction and that this year we will realise the ambition nearest to our hearts. A bouquet is due to our "Mac," who trained his team of gladiators so well that even though the might of H.Q. was launched against them, they successfully survived the barrage and emerged with the laurels.

We drew a bye in the first round of the competition and so passed into the "semi's," in which we met "13" Company. After a close and exciting contest we overcome our opponents by 6 fights to 4. Thence we entered the final, where we annihilated "24" by 8 fights to 2. It seemed poetic justice that the stepping stones to victory should be "13" and "24," for this month we have suffered defeat at the hands of both on the hockey field. Our Bayonet team was:—2/Lieut. Rawlings, Sgt. Cook, Cpl. McGinley, L/Cpls. Bowling, Church, Fife, and Ptes. Sims, Slater, Hills, Kelly and Wooding, and we offer all our congratulations on a real good show.

Section Leader Training having finished, our trick cycling team has dispersed, but we cannot let them fade away without recording the remarks of one of the Bordon district inhabitants when he saw them careering along. "Oi! 'arry, is that the new mechanized army?" and I fear he would not have been so impressed if he could have seen them piled up in column of lumps at the bottom of the next hill. "Ice," "Frozen road," "No brakes," "What excuses!" No wonder their uncontrollable steeds have been called in.

One week of our individual training has been completed during the month, the other two being postponed until after Sergeants' and Corporals' weeks. So once again the square has re-echoed to the commands of "Without dummies, standing load"; and that favourite muscle building exercise called "Strengthening," "one and two."

During the week we had our first adventures with the new "folding boats." The salt in the blood of our forefathers was well to the fore, and the boats were carried around in a manner reminiscent of our Viking ancestors.

This week the "Nonks" have been engaged on Corporals' Week, which this year has consisted of a week on the range. Two competitions have been run in conjunction with the week, but as no results are to hand we cannot congratulate our share of the prize winners yet. Much use of the title "bung" has been indulged in amongst our N.C.O.'s, so we can gather that the well known flag has been hoisted a few times throughout the week.

Sad I am to relate that the familiar figure of our "Nelly" will not be seen dashing around the company for many a long day. He has left us for a tour at the Depot, and we hope that it is of the happiest.

We welcome to the bosom of our family Cpl. Hall and Ptes. Flegg and Howard from the 1st Battalion, and hope that they may find our company the haven of rest they have been seeking.

May we offer, through the medium of these notes, our congratulations to the Battalion cross-country runners on their fine performance in again winning the Aldershot Command Championship, and add our hopes that this year will see the Army Championship once more where it rightly belongs. We give an extra cheer to our representatives, Sgt. Hurley, L/Cpl. Dudley and Pte. Percy, with one for luck to Sgt. (Tom) Hurley for securing another Command Badge to add to his already full list of honours.

Whilst on the subjects of congratulations, we offer ours to L/Cpls. King and Hannaford on their appointments, and also to our "Churchy" on joining the ranks of the paid.

Next week is Sergeants' Week and the fate of the Company is temporarily in the hands of Cpl. Ingram (C.S.M.) and Cpl. "Mac" (C.Q.M.S.). That reminds me that my financial affairs are in a state of chaos, so now to strike whilst the iron is hot.

So au revoir, readers, or the opportunity will be lost.

GANGA WALLAH.

"B" Company.

For the Company this past month has been a veritable "black" one as regards sport. In all branches we have been unable to uphold the standard which we have for some time past attained.

Our old friends and rivals, "S" Company, defeated us in the Inter-Company Hockey by 3 goals to 2, after a really good and exciting match.

In the Bordon Inter-Group run we could only manage to pull off 4th place, though this reflects great credit on the Company team for the opposition was tremendous. And lastly we lost the Bayonet Fencing Shield which we have held for the past year, by losing to "13" Company in the first round of this year's competition.

We welcome to the Company L/Cpl. Lane, Ptes. Blake and Thatcher, recently posted to the home establishment. Our good wishes go with L/Cpl. Ward, who has been selected to attend a M.T. course at Feltham.

This is, I am afraid, all the news of the Company for the past month, and I can only hope that I shall be able to give you a better account of the Company's activities in the next issue.

PARS PERSONAL.

Shades of our Ancesters! What have we here! Farmer with a pace stick and gilding with the look of a bloated millionaire.

STOP PRESS.—I have just been informed that the phenomena mentioned above is all in order. Apparently it is Sergeants' Week and the lowly Corporals have been elected (for a week only) to the highest positions in the land. It is really amazing how little one knows about the man who sleeps next door until he is forced by circumstances to step into the limelight. Who would have thought that a peacestick would have looked so becoming under Harry's arm or the cares of C.Q.M.S. lie so easily on the shoulders of our Gus.

What, no pay! You are Sergeant Major and C.O.M.S. on a Corporal's meagre subsistence! Remember the fifteen of America, my hopefuls, and leave all till the money comes. I will spare their blushes further, for I know Gus has an "immorata" tucked away in the wilds of Hampshire and that Harry always send the journal to Folkestone.

Through no fault of our own Cowley again creeps into the gossip column. In our notes of some time ago we introduced some hints on how to dress. These hints were culled from the membership book of the Old Chappies Club and could have been taken quite correctly as being "just the thing." I would however, draw his attention to the fact that no mention was made in this book of the correct night attire suitable to one living in a barrack room. I would, however, in all humility point out that without a book of reference to hand, it seems entirely wrong to go to bed without taking off ones collar and tie. To call the Orderly Sergeant to assist in the removal of this article of (daily) clothing in my mind only added to the offence.

Other readers please note.

As a privileged person I was permitted some nights ago to attend a Staff party given by the N.A.A.F.I. It was voted by all a great success and great credit is due to all of them for giving us such a splendid evening. We thank you. Arising from the above has come rather a surprising situation. Sitting well away from the crowd I was in a position to watch one of our budding Non Coms. None other than Edmond. Having, with a Clark Gable sang-froid annexed the best looking girl on the floor he proceeded to give us a demonstration of whirlwind wooing. The success or otherwise of his efforts I am not in a position to give, but I would like to say that to walk to Martinique Barracks every night to spend one penny on a cup of tea which lasts from 6 till 9.15 p.m. has at least a suspicious look about it.

Referring to our last notes, we are now informed that the reason for Wilson's blameless living is two bad knees, and not as previously stated a desire to travel the straight and narrow.

We congratulate L/Cpl. Tiley on his coming..... It seems really a shame to see all these young fellows led along that narrow path between two sets of pews which means such a loss of pocket money, but then who can tell a man in love that?

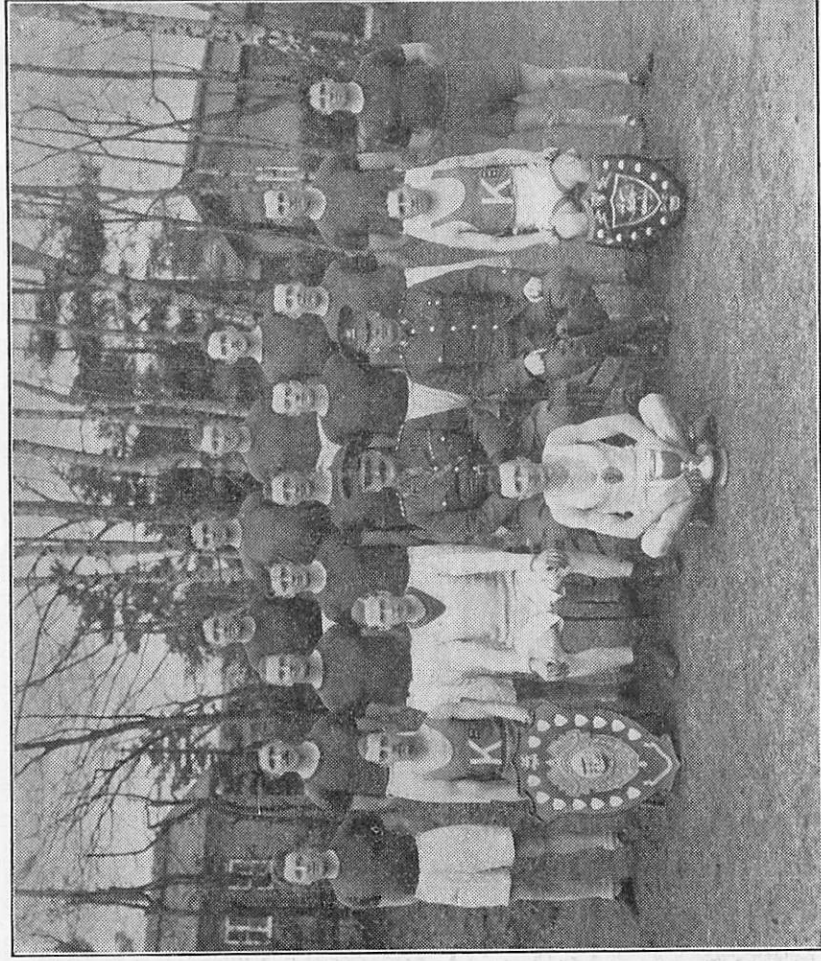
Joking aside, good luck Tiley, and may you live long and both have all you can wish yourselves.

Listening at a key hole the other day (the only way I can manage to get information), I heard an amazing statement. Our Slater, you know the fellow who plays with the hammer and discuss and in his spare time cooks, was a CHEF in the Paris Newhaven Hotel.

I have studied the name of his place of employment, and have come to the conclusion that when he put Anchovy essence in the Rissoles and Custard powder in the meat pies, he was endeavouring to provide us with the unusual fare which I believe is so liked by continentals.

Having had the misfortune to be one of the persons on whom this new dietary was tried out I can only say that I think it would be better if he forgot his civilian training and confine himself to plain cooking. I know that the meat pies were really for my benefit, but, well can a man eat baked meat and custard?

"C" Company, 1936.
 Winners:—Junior Inter-Company Cross Country Shield.
 Inter-Company Cross Country Shield.
 Bordon v. Longmoor Inter-Company Cup.



L/Cpl. Cloke, L/Cpl. Skipwith, Pte. Ellender, L/Cpl. Bollen.
 L/Cpl. Gurney, Pte. Long, L/Cpl. Almond, Pte. Collins, Pte. Ellington, Pte. Rose, Pte. Snapes,
 L/Sgt. Belson, L/Cpl. Skinner.
 Pte. White, 2/Lt. E. L. C. Edlmann, Capt. R. C. Sandilands, M.C., C.S.M. A. Trice, Pte. Watts.
 Pte. Alnwick.

"C" Company.

During the past month things have been very quiet in the Company owing to all our men being employed; nevertheless, we have managed to play off two games of the Hockey Shield. The first was against "B" Company, to whom we lost 3—2; this was a good game, but required careful play, owing to the state of the ground, which was as hard as nails, owing to frost.

The second match was against "13" Company, to whom we lost 4—3, after leading 3—1. Here again we ought to have been playing mudlarks as the ball often disappeared in the mud. Our hockey as not been up to the standard required, as our young players still have a lot to learn. However, we have not been disgraced in any match up to the present, but we sadly miss those players who have left us during the past season.

In the Bayonet Fencing Competition we drew a bye in the first round, and were beaten by "24" Company in the second round, who in turn were beaten by "A" Company in the final. So to "A" Company we offer our congratulations, as it is good for the sport to see the shields and cups pass round from Company to Company. We have to fight off for third place yet with "13" Company.

During the early part of the month we won the Bordon and Longmoor Inter-Company Cross-Country Cup for the second year in succession; we hope that our team for next year stands in the same place.

By winning this cup we have made a clean sweep of the Inter-Company running events for the year.

Ptes. Whiskin and Friggens have left us for a course at the A.V.T.C., Aldershot, and we wish them every success in the future. We are sorry to be losing Whiskin, who as helped us so much in football and hockey.

We welcome to the Company from the 1st Battalion L/Cpl. Steward, who only left us last year, Pte. Burns and Pte. Harrington.

Our one and only "Hank" has now taken over the Mess Room, where his detective powers are so much in evidence that the police will not be required to find breadcrumbs, etc., and why birds will insist on entering the hall without permission.

We offer our congratulations to the Battalion Running Team on winning the Aldershot Command Unit Cross-Country, also to those members of the team who won Command Badges; may good luck follow them and allow us to regain Army honours.

Coco.

"S" Company.

The Company have in the past month lost C.S.M. Saunders to the 4th Battalion (T.A.). Our loss is their gain, and he will be greatly missed, both as a personality in the Company and on the sports field. He was a skipper in every sense. To him we wish the best of luck in his new sphere.

Duty has prevented the Company from playing any of the two remaining football fixtures in the Bordon Inter-Company League, but most of the team have been playing in the 1st or 2nd Regimental teams, thereby keeping their eye in. Pte.

Beneath Bell Harry.



THE Government's rearmament proposals have been followed with interest at the Depot. It is clear that there is to be little increase in the Army, which is to be maintained at about its present strength. This maintenance alone will require more recruits than have been coming in to enlist during recent times. Additional recruits will have to be obtained at a time when the other services are making every effort to obtain men to meet a rapid expansion.

Like the contributors to the patriotic pages of the *Daily Mail*, we at the Depot have discussed the problem at length. The remarkable thing is, however, that nearly everyone seems to have different views on the subject. There are so many doctors and their diagnoses are so different that it looks as though the patient was in a precarious position. Put it to one of the "old school" of pre-South African or even pre-Great War days and he will bark out "Put 'em in red," and continue to say this so as to drown all further argument! After all, perhaps they are right, but perhaps they

are not, and, in any case, it is undesirable to continue further on this subject or it will fill a complete number of *The Dragon* or, more likely still, the Editor's waste-paper basket. What ever changes the future may have in store for the Army, it is clear that they can only bear full fruit with the support of not only of present members but also of the past.

Many members of the Depot went over to The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment's Depot at Maidstone on Wednesday, February 26th, to watch teams from both Depots box for the Hardy Cup. Although The Queen's Own won the cup, our fellows put up a very good show and the spectators enjoyed an evening of good clean boxing. All arrangements made by our hosts were excellent. Especially noteworthy was the admirable refereeing and judging by officers of the Royal Navy. A full account is given elsewhere in these notes.

The Hobson Squad finished their training at the beginning of March and left for Bordon on Wednesday, March 11th. The Silver Medal P.T. Competition for this squad was held on March 2nd, and was won by Pte. Todd. At the conclusion of the competition, Major Wilkins presented Ptes. Phillips, Fuller, Todd, Dines, Slade, Todd, Evans and Bristow with medals for which they had qualified by good shooting in their Recruits' Rifle Course. Pte. Todd received yet another medal as winner of the Recruits' A.R.A. Shooting Competition.

The Paset Squad should begin training about Monday next, when the Lynden-Bell Squad will commence forming. What the squads will be called after that, the Commanding Officer has not yet divulged.

The Depot had only one representative (Mr. Tuff) taking part in the Regimental Race at Astridgewood on March 14th. He rode a good race over a most dangerous-looking course. Although he did not win the race, he came in well up to win the Subalterns' Cup, with a saddle which by the finish had slipped somewhere round his horse's belly, he himself being still up top.

2nd Battalion—continued from p. 125.

Longley, our goalkeeper, has been laid up through being damaged while playing for the Regimental team, but we hope to have him fit for the final of the Bordon Inter-Company Championship.

Once again the Company sprung a surprise by running into second place in the Bordon Inter-Company run. We must congratulate "C" Company on winning it for the second year running. Sgt. Trinkwon must be credited with having spent a lot of his time coaching and training the team, and mention must be made of the following, who formed our tail end and made it wag: L/Cpl. Golder, Ptes. Williams, Thompson, Furlong and Chapman.

C.Q.M.S. Allen, L/Cpl. Price and Pte. Oliver represented the Company in the Battalion Bayonet Fencing Team, which was narrowly beaten by the Royal Irish Fusiliers in the Bronze Medal Tournament.

At present we are awaiting the result of the hockey match, "24" v. "C." If "24" win then we must play them for the deciding point, having both the same number of points.

Once again the signs of the athletic season are approaching and with the talent discovered last year the Company should once again be in front. As usual, we are supplying our quota of N.C.O.'s and men to the Battalion teams.

Drabby's literary effort was much appreciated by the Company and one has decided to answer it below.

SUPPORTER.

The man who rides that ancient steed
Although it may be killing,
He still has strength to mark the pay
Of Drabby, who draws a shilling.

UNO.

How to get "The Dragon,"

FOR those wishing to receive the Paper direct through the post each month, the rates of subscription are:—
1 year, 8/- 6 months, 4/- 3 months, 2/-.
Remittances should be sent to the Editor, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.

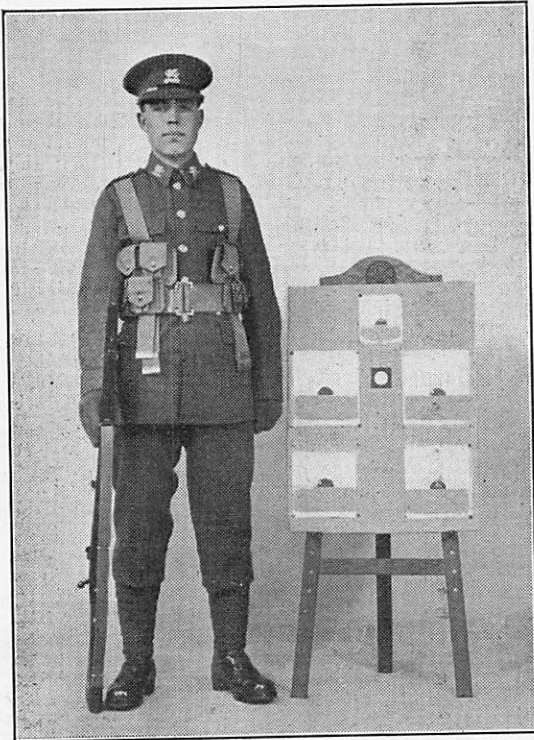
DEPOT RECORD.

Recruits' Weapon Training Course. Table A.

Part III.

Hobson Squad—Sgt. Glazier, Squad Commander.

COURSE FIRED AT CANTERBURY, FEBRUARY, 1936.

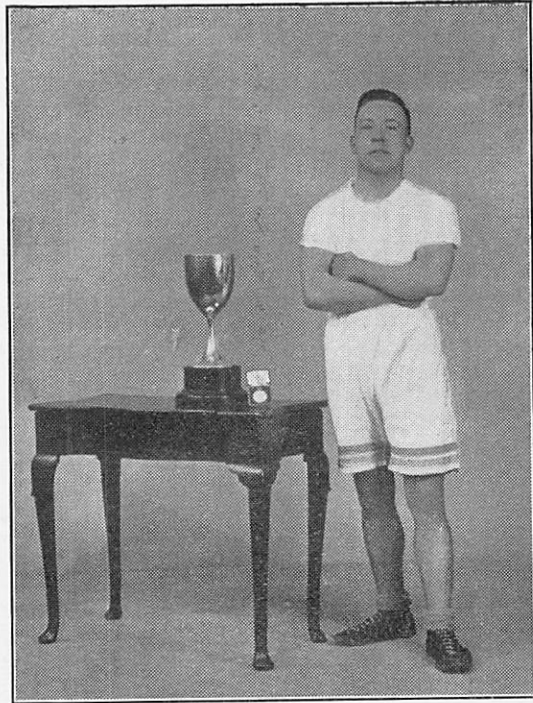


Fisk Moore.

No. 6286144 Private A. Phillips.

Practice.	Score obtained.	Possible.
Grouping	25	25
Slow	20	20
Snap Shooting	19	20
Timed	20	20
Slow	20	20
Total ...	104	105

The Hobson Squad made a record average score with 90.3 points out of 105. No. 628325 Pte. T. Fuller obtained a score of 102, in addition to above record of Pte. Phillips.



Fisk Moore.

Recruit Smith.

Winner of The Barrett Cup.

Hardy Cup Boxing Competition.

Although the Depot Recruits lost the cup by 5 events to 2, it was by no means an easy win for the Depot, The Queen's Own Regiment. Without in any way depriving the winners of any credit for their splendid win, it must be said in all fairness to our team, that there was but very little in the Referee's decisions.

To produce a team of seven out of a total of 50 recruits needs an effort, and our opponents had over 100 to select theirs from.

Our recruits did, however, put up an extremely good performance. It gave satisfaction to those whose duty it was to train the team. Two extra bouts were arranged, the chief of which being a heavyweight contest between Sgt. Martin and Sgt. Stone of the Queen's Own. Both being old 'Pugs' of the East and recently home for a tour of duty. A description of the fight will be found below but this bout gave the spectators a really good show. The civilians who paid admission were satisfied and many remarked that this fight alone gave them their money's worth.

The position of Hardy Cup now stands as follows:— Depot, The Buffs, 6 wins; Depot, The Queen's Own, 4 wins.

It was interesting to note that a large contingent of men from the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Own journeyed from Shorncliffe to encourage their recruits.

Our team had every available man from the Depot to support them. Major Chitty, the Officer Commanding, The Queen's Own Depot, very kindly arranged a free supper for our team and spectators alike. Our Officers were entertained by the Officers and the Sergeants by the Sergeants of the Queen's Own. It was in fact a really good re-union, and all ranks

thoroughly appreciated the generosity and kindness of their hosts. It is this and similar friendly gatherings which cement the good feeling that exists between the two county regiments.

At the conclusion of the meeting Major Chitty made a short speech thanking all those who took part and warmly congratulated those who had the honour to box for their respective Depots. He called on Colonel Hancock, Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment, to present the prizes. After Colonel Hancock had given away the prizes he thanked Major Chitty and the Officers of the Queen's Own Depot for their invitation to witness the match. He said "I am quite sure every visitor had enjoyed the excellent exhibition as he had, and congratulated the recruits on their keenness and plucky display."

Results below:

FEATHERWEIGHT—Recruit Jones, The Queen's Own, beat Recruit Hopper. A very good fight which went the full three rounds. Jones looked a sturdier man than the young Hopper, who was inclined to be on the defensive too much. Had he mixed it more Jones may have been surprised. Both were given a good ovation on leaving the ring.

LIGHTWEIGHT—Recruit Smith beat Recruit Bland, The Queen's Own, Bland, the son of an Ex-R.S.M. of the D.C.I., stationed in India when the 1st Battalion was in Bareilly, was considered the best boxer of the opposing team. True, he is a very good boxer and most stylish, but Smith, our Birmingham lad, being on the short side and without a long reach, would not allow Bland to box. Much as Bland tried, Smith kept in at close quarters and knocked his opponent off his stride. It was a good fight and Smith must be pleased with himself for defeating such a good boxer. My remarks in last month's *Dragon* still applies to Smith and he should find no difficulty in being selected to represent the Battalion in their Inter-Unit team.

LIGHTWEIGHT—Recruit Russell, Queen's Own, beat Recruit Scott. These two Recruits were into it from the sound of the gong. Scott was up on points during the first round (at least, the referee told the writer so). During the second round the man from West Kent was successful in finding Scott's face open, which he punished. The third round was very even and our man was extremely unlucky to lose the verdict.

WELTERWEIGHT—Recruit Etchells, Queen's Own, beat Recruit Akers. Akers, who hails from Bethesda, a few miles from Ashford and a former Rover Scout Master, gave the spectators a nice surprise. The first round his opponent was all over him, and it looked as if Akers would not last. This proved far from the point, since during the second round he brought a beautiful right to the jaw of Etchells and floored him. The latter got up, but Akers was too gentlemanly and allowed him to recover. He used the same punch again and down went Etchells, the gong saving him. Etchells managed to keep clear during the last round and won on points. **MIDDLEWEIGHT**—Recruit Pitcher beat Recruit Taylor, Queen's Own. Another fast and "Go out" fight. Pitcher meant business, but left his face open to the mercy of Taylor, who could have found the target a Godsend had he used his wits. During the second round the referee found it necessary to caution Taylor for hitting with the inside of the hand. Having again disobeyed the rule he was ordered to his corner and the fight awarded to Pitcher.

WELTERWEIGHT—Recruit Wood, Queen's Own, knocked out Recruit Donovan. This fight commenced well for Donovan, and until he was hit to the body he looked every bit a winner. The West Kent man, finding Donovan's weak spot, never left it until poor Donovan was counted out.

INTERMEDIATE WEIGHT—Recruit Ashby, Queen's Own, beat Recruit Reynolds. This was a real tough fight. Hard hitting and a display of grit. Both were considered good and the result could have very easily been the other way. Both were the recipients of bleeding ears and nose. This brought the spectators to yelling their utmost. This being the last fight of the team, it ended as it ought, i.e., full of spirit.

Extra bouts:

HEAVYWEIGHT—Sergeant Martin beat Sergeant Stone, Queen's Own. Bufts of both Battalions know the powers and boxing ability of Sgt. Martin in the boxing ring. He gave a spirited display which the crowd were ready to applaud when the fight was over. Stone, of tall fine physique, a muscular man from the West of Kent, and with years of experience, made a very excellent scrap of it. The first round honours were even. Martin then began to drive some splendid punches to the chin which would have staggered an ordinary fellow. Stone took these well, but Martin, who was in much better condition, plied the points up. The third round Martin again had the better of it and won the fight. Readers no doubt read in February's *Dragon* an account of Sgt. Martin's fight when he represented the 2nd Battalion. It is enough to say he showed the same alertness, aggressiveness and will to win, not so much for himself, but for the regiment to which he belongs. All ranks congratulate Sgt. Martin on his excellent boxing since his home coming.

INTERMEDIATE WEIGHT—Recruit North, Queen's Own, beat Recruit Gover. The latter, plucky though he is, could not stand up to the onslaught of North, who had every advantage of a boxer. This was Gover's first appearance in the ring and as he said when asked how he liked it, "I saw stars and prefer the position of spectator."

Sergeants' Mess.

I forgot to mention in last month's *Dragon* notes that the members said *adieu* to Jim Aman. I was given to understand that he slept the night at the Depot in the zoo department just vacated by Joe Pointer and poor old Jim had a restless night owing to the monkeys upsetting everything, they even went so far as to try and drown him. Anyway we wish him the best of luck in his new sphere of life.

Certain members at the time of writing are looking forward to a small spot of leave as they are lucky enough to be part of or attached to a squad which is due for its mid-training leave. The members concerned have run out of Grape-nuts and Horlick's and have commenced training on Beemax. It's a very fine tonic. I'm told it prevents the noises behind the ears so that holding tab-ends is not difficult.

Mick Mullen paid us another visit during the month and I am very pleased to state he is looking very fit and well. We are only too pleased to be visited by the old members. Many a pleasant evening can be spent talking over old times.

Tom Vale has written and informed us that at the conclusion of his course, lessons in gardening will be at moderate terms.

During the month we held a series of games tournaments with the Pay Corps, and, with the exception of darts, beat them in everything. Of course, we expected implements to arrive service fountain pens. A very pleasant evening was spent. I am more than sorry to state that Mack failed to stay the course in the Billiards Handicap. He found it a little hard getting his second wind after the third lap and ran second to the old stager, Mr. Dixon.

Hobson Squad. September 1935—March 1936.



[Lander, Canterbury.

Pte. Bristow, Pte. Moody, Pte. Welsh, Pte. Phillips.
 Pte. Fuller, Pte. Dines, Pte. Dilworth, Pte. Payton, Pte. Thirst, Pte. Cador.
 Pte. Evans, Pte. Arnold, L/Cpl. G. Wight, L/Cpl. F. Sutton, Sgt. L. Glazier, L/Cpl. W. Bell,
 Pte. Slade, Pte. Todd.

The members attended *en masse* at Maidstone to urge the Depot team to victory in their competition for the Hardy Boxing Cup, but with all our shouting and a good show on their part, they just lost. Never mind, better luck next time. After the show we were invited by the Sergeants' Mess, Royal West Kent's to an excellent supper. We all did justice to it and hope that when they visit us we will please them as they pleased us.

Corporals' Room.

It was noticed in last month's issue of *The Dragon* that congratulations were extended to the various N.C.O.'s who passed in their promotion examination, and now I, as pen subscriber to these notes, on behalf of the Corporals, wish to thank the Officers and N.C.O.'s who so kindly gave up their precious time in assisting and instructing, to enable them to come through with honours.

"Buffy" and "Chalky" have had worried looks on their faces this last few days and we are wondering if it's love or cards. Both give one the same expression.

Our sports committee graciously organised a friendly soccer match against the Sergeants, and I must say this game was very exciting, in fact so much, that "Buffy" suddenly decided to turn it into a Rugby match, and now all one can hear over the teas and wads is "what about a Rigger match?" The result of this game was a draw, score being 3—3.

We congratulate Cpl. Blake and L/Cpl. Dawson on being part of the A.R.A. team and winning a medal, thus helping the Depot team to finish 6th.

A great lot of our skill with the Rifle is due to the vast practise we have afternoons and evenings at the Depot Range, organised by the Rifle Club.

Cpl. Causer and L/Cpl. Stokes have been nominated by the members to represent the Corporals at the Cranbrook Past and Present Dinner, and we hope they enjoy themselves as other members have done in the past at these functions.

We all offer our sympathies to L/Cpl. White on the sad loss of his young lady.

Trained Men's Notes.

We all wish to extend a very warm welcome to Pte. Nelson who has joined us from the 2nd Battalion; he seems to know the ropes all right, or is it owing to an association with Punch Allen; make yourself at home and we hope you will enjoy yourself while on your tour.

Our one and only Old Man Fuller it appears is riding in the local "Dankers Derby."

While I have the opportunity I would like to enquire as to the person's name that wields a pretty broom; is it "Pony" Moore or "Dingess" Bell? Is it a new form of vocational training or just a new game?

Our own "Peerless" Duke is losing his schoolboy complexion; he's getting wrinkled and grey (try a bottle of Bay Rum, my boy, it's good stuff).

"Uno 00."

The 4th Battalion.

Valedictory Order by Colonel B. S. Collard, T.D.



ON relinquishing command of the battalion, I should like to express to all ranks my deep sense of gratitude for the loyal support which has always been extended to me during the past five years.

It has been a difficult period for the Territorial Army, and had it not been for the strong determination of the battalion as a whole to make the best of matters, we should hardly have survived.

The better conditions for the Territorial Army for which we have all been striving are about to be realised, and I shall watch with the greatest interest the progress of the battalion.

I feel certain that under Lieut.-Colonel D. J. Dean the battalion will go on to still bigger things, and I wish him and all ranks the very best of luck in what may lie ahead.

B.S.C.

Special Order of the Day by the Colonel of the Regiment.

On March 20th the 4th Battalion and our Regiment will suffer a very serious loss, for on that day Colonel B. S. Collard finishes his command of the 4th Battalion. Beloved and respected by all ranks, Colonel Collard has steered the 4th Battalion successfully through some very difficult waters. Unperturbed by the intense wave of hopeless pacifism which has swept over our country in recent years, he has kept his head up and carried on. He leaves the 4th Battalion the strongest in the Home Counties Division and the results of his steadfast work will be seen in the future.

I say advisedly "steadfast" because that word very aptly describes Colonel Collard. He has been "steadfast" in his work for the 4th Battalion and for the Regiment. Everyone realises that nothing could move him from what he considers to be his duty to either.

His tour of command has officially finished, but I am confident that the work he has done for the 4th Battalion can never be forgotten.

As Colonel of the Regiment I offer him the Regiment's very grateful thanks.

(Signed) A. LYNDEN-BELL,
Colonel of The Buffs.
March 20th, 1936.

We are now drawing to the close of the period of command of Colonel B. S. Collard, T.D., after more than 27 years' service with the battalion. Colonel Collard hands over to Major Dean at the end of this month, and before these words appear in print we shall have lost our very popular and distinguished C.O.

During his period of command, the battalion has increased steadily in efficiency and happiness, and despite all the difficulties which have beset the Territorial Army during that period, the battalion has topped the list in the Division for maintaining its strength. The credit for this remarkable fact is much due to his untiring energy on behalf of all ranks. The battalion has not only maintained a good strength, but has topped the bill in many of the Military Efficiency Tests in the Brigade and Division. It is very trying for Colonel Collard to have to leave us just as the conditions for which he has been fighting for so long are about to be adopted, and the path of the Territorial Army is to be made much easier, when during the whole of his command it has been one long struggle to keep the show going. Fortunately for us he lives near Canterbury and we are sure to see a good deal of him in the future, and hope that he will visit us in camp and at our other activities frequently. We wish Colonel and Mrs. Collard the very best of luck in the future.

To Major Dean (our future C.O.) we wish the very best of everything. He is lucky to be taking over a battalion in such good order. He is no stranger to us and his enthusiasm and energy are well-known and we are sure that he will maintain the high standard of the battalion.

There are so many changes taking place in the composition of the battalion at present that when we get to camp we shall not quite know where we are. The Permant Staff have now got several newcomers. Sgt. Farrell, Sgt. Edwards, and now C.S.M. Saunders, not to mention the Adjutant, are all new to the fold. We very much regret the departure of C.S.M. Sidwell, who has just left us for a very good job in civil life. He has been a most important member of the battalion for several years, and we were looking forward to having him with us for many more, but he was offered a very good job in the same business as R.S.M. Vaughan and so we have lost his very valuable services. All good luck to him in his new venture, and we all hope to dine with him in his restaurant at the first opportunity. We also hope that he will come and see us whenever he has the chance.

We are very lucky, however, to get C.S.M. Saunders to replace him. It seems to be the custom for the Support Company C.S.M. to come along to us from the Support Company of the 2nd Battalion. C.S.M. Saunders is the third one to follow this habit, and a very good one it is. We are sure that he will receive a warm welcome from Dover and Folkestone, and that the excellent show that C.S.M. Sidwell has run for so long will be kept up by his successor.

These notes will not be complete without some mention of our activities during the past month.

On February 20th the Canterbury Platoon held their Prize Distribution and Dinner at Gaywood's Rooms, which was well attended and was a most enjoyable evening. C.S.M. Burt helped us to enjoy ourselves with some of his famous recitations.

On February 23rd, the Transport had a day's instruction under the watchful eye of Mr. Maslin at Bridge. They are lucky to be mounted on the very excellent horses that he supplies, and there should be no excuse for bad seats or hands in camp. We also had another day on March 8th on Mr. Maslin's horses, and have one more day to come.

At present there is a strong rumour that motor transport is to be adopted in camp this year, with the exception of the officers' chargers. It therefore behoves all transport men to learn to drive a car at once.

Sgt. Master has had to undergo a test at the R.E. Barracks to qualify for his promotion to Pioneer Sergeant in place of Sgt. Coombes. He was given a step-ladder to make and completed it in six hours, which appears to be a really high speed job, though it did not look like a rushed job when examined. So he seems a good follower to our old friend Sgt. Coombes, whose retirement we all very much regret.

From February 28th to March 1st, Colonel Collard, Majors Dean and Witts, Captains Reid, Bacon and Geering, Lieuts. Iggulden, Jackson and Green attended the 133rd Brigade War Game at Hastings. The weather was too good for indoor work, but the War Game was most interesting and we all enjoyed ourselves very much.

On March 5th, the Herne Bay Platoon held their prize distribution and dinner at the Victoria Hotel, which was well attended and most enjoyable.

On March 10th, 11th and 12th, the Adjutant attended the 44th Division T.E.W.T. at Crowborough. Major Wilkins and Captain Fox attended from the Depot. The T.E.W.T. was carried out on the New Organisation for the Army and proved very interesting, but the weather would have suited a War Game much better, the keen east wind over Ashdown Forest was very trying. We were very sorry that our Divisional Commander was unable to attend this exercise as Director owing to an attack of influenza.

As we go to press, Captain Reid, Lieuts. Denne and Hews are preparing to attend the Levée on March 18th.

"A" Company.

Recruiting is the general topic of the day, and judging by the amount of publicity we are receiving through the Press and Lord Rothermere's appeal to employers, things should be moving.

All platoons are working very hard with the object of getting the Company up to strength before annual training, with vague promises and threats of £5 bounties, marriage allowance for all ranks over 21, and lots of other very nice considerations, recruits continue to roll up, but whether all the nice things the *suggesters* in the Press would like us to have will materialise is another question, meanwhile we soldier on for 30/- per year and hope for the best.

All ranks are beginning to look forward to annual training at Falmer, near Brighton, the happy hunting grounds of the old un's. I wonder if a certain Sergeant of "A" Company has happy memories of Mulscombe, and is he hoping to revive them in June.

Herne Bay held their annual dinner and prize distribution on Thursday, March 5th, a very pleasant evening was spent at the Victoria Hotel. We were very pleased to see present: Colonel B. S. Collard, T.D., Major D. Dean, V.C., Major C. S. F. Witts, T.D., Capt. and Adj. T. R. Reid, 2/Lieut. Hews, R.S.M. Shoobridge.

The success of the evening was due to the Platoon Commander, Lieut. D. P. Iggulden, who at least, if he did not provide the prizes, did supply the necessary beverage that makes these gatherings so enjoyable. In the speeches that followed some very nice things were said of the platoon which I am sure were very deserving.

We welcome to the Company 2/Lieut. Hews, who is a newcomer to the Regiment, and whom we hear will shortly take over the platoon from Lieut. Iggulden. Good luck, sir, and may you carry on the good work for many years to come.

To Lieut. Iggulden we offer our very best congratulations on his well-earned promotion, he is taking over "A" Company from Major Witts, and if he commands the Company as well as he did the platoon, then "A" Company will have no troubles, and may his command be a long one. In saying au revoir to our C.O. we wish him all the best in his retirement from the active list, we still hope to see him on many future occasions, and many thanks, sir, for all you have done for us during your tenure of command.

Sandwich Platoon are beginning to pull their weight and are slowly but surely increasing in numbers; there is no doubt the youth of Sandwich require waking up, there must be plenty of the right stuff. At present the bulk of the platoon comes from surrounding districts. Possibly the local branch of the Past and Present Association may assist with some suggestions.

Ramsgate Platoon are we hear to have a dinner at the Royal Hotel on March 19th. They will be supported by Margate, who are turning out full strength with their Drum and Fife Band, so everything looks merry and bright for a real Buff evening. A full account of this function will appear in next month's issue.

"D" (S) Company and "H.Q." Wing.**DOVER.**

Our annual dinner and prize giving is a thing of the past for another twelve months. On February 14th, at the Drill Hall, Dover, about 150 members of the Company sat down to a very enjoyable dinner and concert, which had been well arranged by our popular P.S.I. and his wife. We were all very pleased to see our Company Commander, Capt. G. D. Bacon, M.C., in the chair, ably supported by Capt. C. H. Brooke, Lieut. P. L. Roberts, and Lieut. R. J. Cheney. Our guests of the evening were Colonel B. S. Collard, T.D., Major Dean, V.C., Capt. T. R. Reid, M.C., Alderman F. H. Morecroft, J.P., and R.S.M. Shooridge. After all had partaken of a good dinner, the first toast of the evening, "The King," was honoured. Next came the "Commanding Officer" by Capt. G. D. Bacon, M.C. In his remarks I think he praised everybody for the work which had been done during the past year, but forgot to mention anything about himself. He went on about the time lost at Camp in having to do the little things which could be well learnt at our Drill Stations in the winter months. So come on "D" and do your stuff. Colonel B. S. Collard, T.D., in response, spoke on the success of the M.G. Company and the Drums. He also spoke about the present shortage of recruits, and hoped the financial inducements would shortly be improved. As this was his last visit before handing over to Major Dean, V.C., he asked us to give him the same support as we had given him. Next the toast "Our Visitors" was given by Lieut. R. J. Cheney, which was very short and sweet. This was replied to by Alderman T. H. Morecroft, J.P., a very old member of the old Volunteer Company of The Buffs. Next came the "Permanent Staff," given by Capt. C. H. M. Brooke. In his remarks he said he wanted everyone to understand if it were not for the work of the P.S. all the year round there was no doubt that there would be no Camp, except for all the work they do behind the scenes. Capt. T. R. Reid, M.C., in response, said that with the help of the R.S.M. and other members of the P.S. he would try and keep his head above water and do his best for the Battalion. He did not think the words Permanent Staff were quite right, as one just got settled down and then it was time to be moving again, but he thought with the help of all he would endeavour to live up to the high standard set by our late adjutant. This closed the speeches for the evening, and a good musical programme given by Mr. McCormack, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Reed. Here we must thank C.S.M. Sidwell, M.M., and Mrs. Sidwell for arranging such a great evening.

My next remarks I have had a hard job to put into words. It is the rather sudden departure of our popular P.S.I., C.S.M. Sidwell, M.M., and his wife, he having obtained a good job in London, and the Company wish him the best of luck. On Thursday last, March 5th, a good many members of the Company gathered at the Drill Hall, Dover, to make a small presentation to him and his wife. The chair was taken by Capt. C. M. M. Brooke, who said a few well chosen words on the great work C.S.M. Sidwell, M.M., had done for the Company in the short time he had been with them and the work on the social side which Mrs. Sidwell had done on behalf of the members. Capt. Brooke then presented them with a clock, suitably inscribed, from the Company and a fountain pen and pencil from the W.O. and N.C.O. C.S.M. Sidwell, M.M., in response, said he had only done his duty, but we in the know could tell of lots of little things which he and his wife have gone out of their way to do to make us a big happy family. We were pleased to welcome to the Company our new P.S.I., C.S.M. Saunders, and hope he will soon settle down.

WINDSCREEN WIPER.

FOLKESTONE.

I must first apologise for an error in my last month's notes. I said the detachment had gone up two places in the Dover and Folkestone Rifle League, whereas we still hold our original humble position. It was in the Garrison League that we moved two places away from the wooden spoon. While on the subject of shooting, we have this month good reason to be grateful to the "D" Company Club and the practical form which their interest in the Company takes. The club has presented us with a Model 12 B.S.A. rifle fitted with adjustable front and rear sights. As a result we hope that interest in shooting amongst the younger members in the detachment will be considerably increased, as we now have a choice of the heavier Model 15 rifle or the lighter Model 12 for smaller men.

We have unfortunately during the month lost our P.S.I., C.S.M. Sidwell, who has beaten his sword into a plough share (or carving knife?) and retired into civilian life. We shall miss him very much after his short but very successful stay with the Company, but at the same time we congratulate him on the very good job he has secured and wish him the best of luck. We should also like to extend a hearty welcome to C.S.M. Saunders who has taken his place and hope that his tour of duty will be a happy one.

P.L.R.

"D" COMPANY CLUB.

On February 27th the club members had the very great pleasure of entertaining about thirty patients from the Star and Garter Home, Sandgate, to a games night. We hope that they had a thorough good evening while with us. No record of the number of games they won was kept, which, perhaps for us, was just as well for it was noticed that in spite of their severe disabilities they were getting the upper hand of us in almost every game played.

Our next clash at games will be on March 18th, when we receive a visit from our friends the members of the 234th Field Battery R.A. (T.). We hear that quite a number of our detachment are awaiting the opportunity to avenge the severe defeat they sustained when they were the guests of the Gunners last year.

It came as a surprise to us to learn that "S" Company were to lose their very popular P.S.I., who, when these notes appear, will have abandoned the khaki for the bowler hat and be known as Mr. Frank Sidwell. We are very pleased to hear that his time will be fully occupied in a very good billet in London. We wish him luck. On his last visit to the club a number of members gathered to give him a send off. We shall miss his periodical visits, but hope we have not seen the last of him.

Now that Football Pools have caused quite a stir among a number of our members they are finding a new outlet for their energies in that "old and ancient" game of Pokie Die under the captaincy of the Great Harold (have you yet paid for your learning, Harold).

Our steward has just lately been much concerned about a new member, who delights in visiting the bar and enjoying good meals of bottle crates, etc., but only during Joe's absence. What is going to happen to that rat when Joe does make a capture cannot be described here. Joe has already indented for and obtained an issue of traps, rat, and is now going through a course of "Traps, rat, to set how," under the instruction of Charlie Tribe. We think, Joe, that by the time you obtain a "D" for this reinforcement for your visitor will have arrived, and you will be detailed for a course of "Big Game Hunting."

We are very pleased to learn that our steward's son has fully recovered from the operation performed on him and is again back at the Duke of York's School.

Our winter games competitions are now almost completed and before the end of the month we hope to hold our annual smoking concert and prize distribution.

Our Contemporaries.

WE acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following journals:—

"Aldershot Command News." "Indian Army Ordnance Corps Gazette." "The Covenanter." "St. George's Gazette." "The Royal Tank Corps Journal." "The Gunner." "Journal of The Royal Army Service Corps." "The Hampshire Regimental Journal." "The Sapper." "The Snapper." "The Tiger and Rose." "The Green Howards' Gazette." "Journal of The Honourable Artillery Company." "Our Empire." "The London Scottish Regimental Gazette." "Cabar Feidh."

B. & W. FISK-MOORE,

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The Regimental Gazette.

Officers.

REGULAR ARMY: COMMANDS AND STAFF.
The following officers have vacated appts. in India:—
BDE. MAJ.—Maj. E. H. Allen, The Buffs (January 22nd).

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

4TH BN. THE BUFFS.—Lt. A. C. Roberts resigns his commn. (January 16th).

4TH BN. THE BUFFS.—P. Newcome (late Cadet, Marlborough Coll. Contgt., Jun. Div., O.T.C.) to be Second-Lieutenant (March 4th).

The 1st Battalion.

PROMOTION AND APPOINTMENTS.

6284640 Pte. J. Haydon, "B," 6284416 Pte. S. Arber, "B," appointed Unpaid L/Corporals, 1-1-36.

6284901 Pte. J. Foulsham, "S," 2559926 Pte. J. Lind, "S," 6285437 Pte. A. Leeds, "S," appointed Unpaid L/Corporals, 3-1-36.

6284467 Pte. P. Champion, "B," appointed Unpaid L/Corporal, 8-1-36.

6139190 Pte. R. Ship, H.Q., 6284483 Pte. J. Ratcliff, H.Q., appointed Bandsmen, 20-1-36.

6279365 C/S. E. Marsh, "A," promoted Warrant Officer Cl. II. and appointed C.S.M., 23-1-36.

6279264 Sgt. G. Brophy, "S," promoted C/Sergeant, and appointed C.Q.M.S., 23-1-36.

N.C.O.'s PROMOTION EXAMINATION RESULTS.

6282403 Cpl. F. Message, "B," 6340567 Cpl. H. Pattenden, "C," 6282811 Cpl. F. Belcher, "C," passed an Examination for Promotion to Sergeant on 16-12-35.

6284397 L/Cpl. E. Kirby, "B," 6284721 L/Cpl. A. Bevan, H.Q., 6284608 L/Cpl. W. Kennedy, H.Q., 6284275 L/Cpl. H. West, "B," 6279450 L/Cpl. R. Whittington, H.Q., 6284450 L/Cpl. R. Simmonds, "S," passed an Examination for Promotion to Corporal on 16-12-35.

6282553 L/Cpl. W. Finch, H.Q., 6281632 L/Cpl. F. Phillipson, H.Q., 6285215 L/Cpl. J. Chidwick, "S," 6284657 L/Cpl. H. Richards, "C," 6285228, L/Cpl. E. Eustace, "C," 6283773 L/Cpl. H. Smith, "C," 6284768 L/Cpl. R. Hoare, "C," passed an Examination for appointment to Paid Lance-Corporal on 16-12-35.

EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.

6284439 Pte. G. Cox, H.Q., passed in Economics at an examination for the Army Special Certificate of Education held at Maymyo on 12-10-35. Date of award, 12-10-35.

The 2nd Battalion.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

6285655 L/Cpl. J. Church, "A," appointed Paid L/Corporal, 19-2-36.

6278736 L/Cpl. E. Taylor, "B," promoted Corporal, 19-2-36.
6282034 L/Cpl. J. Hooker, "A," relinquishes pay of Appt., 1-3-36.

6281559 L/Cpl. E. Holness, H.Q., appointed Paid L/Corporal, 1-3-36.

6280253 Sgt. A. Thorndycroft, H.Q., relinquishes apptd. of Sergeant Master Cook, 29-2-36.

6285183 Pte. T. Cowell, "S," appointed Unpaid L/Corporal, 27-8-35.

POSTINGS, ETC.

The undermentioned disembarked at Southampton, per H.T. *Cameronia*, on 29-2-36, on posting to the Home Establishment:—

6515701 Pte. W. Flegg, 6281909 Cpl. A. Hall, 6283839 Pte. R. Blake, 6284176 L/Cpl. L. Lane, 6284182 Pte. J. Thatcher, 6283135 Pte. F. Harrington, 6283897 Bdm. J. Bishop, 6283806 Bdm. M. Boland, 6284205 Bdm. W. Cowley, 6282459 Dmr. J. Detson, 6383746 Dmr. W. Eggleton, 6281559 L/Cpl. E. Holness, 6284172 Bdm. W. Kember, 6283819 Dmr. S. Newington, 6284226 Bdm. E. Osborne, 6284169 L/Cpl. (Bdm.) C. Watts.

The Depot.

RECRUITS.

Attested as shown:—
Pte. D. M. Linfield, "P," 24-2-36; Pte. C. W. Reynolds, "P," 24-2-36; Pte. P. D. H. Hannaway, "P," 25-2-36; Pte. W. J. H. Riches, "P," 27-2-36; Pte. J. W. Thomas, "P," 27-2-36; Pte. N. B. V. Side, "P," 2-3-36; Pte. J. H. Price, "P," 2-3-36; Pte. F. W. Hopping "P," 29-2-36; Pte. H. E. Waters, "P," 29-2-36; Pte. W. W. Wakefield, "P," 7-3-36; Pte. D. E. Palmer, "P," 5-3-36; Pte. G. E. Smith, "P," 9-3-36; Pte. W. S. R. Southey, "P," 11-3-36; Pte. T. G. Whitehead, "P," 9-3-36; Pte. T. F. Blakelock, "P," 14-3-36.

EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.

The undermentioned were awarded 3rd Class Certificates of Education at an examination held at Canterbury on 14-2-36:—

6285863 Pte. A. Thirst, "H"; 6286165 Pte. J. Hilder, "K"; 6286158 Pte. W. Wanford, "K."

The undermentioned were awarded 2nd Class Certificates of Education at an examination held at Canterbury on 18-2-36:—

6286137 Pte. K. Evans, "H"; 6285325 Pte. T. Fuller, "H."

STRENGTH—DISEMBARKATIONS.

The undermentioned disembarked at Southampton on 29-2-36, ex-H.T. *Cameronia*:—

1st BN. THE BUFFS.—6283827 Pte. A. Mangelshot, 6283835 Pte. J. Olifent, 6283826 Pte. G. Robinson, 6283818 Pte. J. Spelman, 6282459 Dr. J. Dotson.

POSTINGS.

6284765 Pte. B. Poole, re-posted to 2nd Battalion The Buffs, 2-3-36.

6282084 Pte. J. Hooker (2nd Battalion The Buffs), posted to Depot for a tour of duty, 1-3-36.

310004 Pte. C. Nelson (2nd Battalion The Buffs), posted to Depot for a tour of duty, 3-3-36.

The undermentioned members of "H" Squad were posted to 2nd Battalion The Buffs on 12-3-36:—

6286103 Pte. L. E. Arnold, 6286148 Pte. E. W. Bristow, 6286146 Pte. A. D. Cadour, 6895226 Pte. T. A. Dilworth, 6286139 Pte. V. G. Dines, 6286137 Pte. K. Evans, 6285325 Pte. T. E. Fuller, 6286129 Pte. E. F. M. Gisby, 6286136 Pte. E. J. Moody, 6286131 Pte. R. Payton, 6286144 Pte. A. B. Phillips, 5618517 Pte. F. G. Slade, 6285863 Pte. A. S. Thirst, 6286138 Pte. F. L. Todd, 6286130 Pte. F. Welsh.

6282459 Dmr. J. Dotson, posted to 2nd Battalion The Buffs, 6-3-36.

DISCHARGE.

L/Cpl. L. Surbey, discharged under para. 383 (xvi) (a) K.R.'s 1935, 22-2-36.

6286246 Pte. H. Fox, "H," discharged under para. 383 (iii) K.R.'s 1935, 15-2-36.

6278846 Pte. H. Knight, discharged under para. 383 (xxii) K.R.'s 1935, 29-2-36.

6284350 Pte. F. Deal, discharged under para. 383 (xvi) (a) K.R.'s 1935, 29-2-36.

6284547 Pte. A. P. Barnes, discharged under para. 383 (xvi) (a) K.R.'s 1935, 2-3-36.

6286169 Pte. J. Ovenden, "P," 6286177 Pte. W. Hook, "P," discharged under para. 383 (vi) (b) K.R.'s 1935, 5-3-36.

The 4th Battalion.

ENLISTMENTS.

The undermentioned recruits have been attested and posted to Companies as shown:—

Pte. E. Saunders, "A" (M), 13-2-36; Pte. R. Clark, "A" (M), 11-2-36; Boy R. Frost, "B" (W), 19-2-36; Pte. J. Berry, "D" (D), 20-2-36; Pte. G. Dunford, "D" (D), 20-2-36; Pte. F. Kemsley, "D" (D), 20-2-36; Pte. F. Irons, "D" (D), 20-2-36; Pte. D. Piddington, "B" (W), 19-2-36; Pte. T. Hill, "A" (S), 24-2-36; Pte. R. Stringer, "A" (S), 24-2-36; Pte. S. Rogers, "A" (R), 27-2-36; Pte. S. Hicks, "D" (D), 27-2-36; Pte. F. Morris, "D" (D), 20-2-36; Pte. V. Blythe, "D" (D), 29-2-36; Pte. J. Nunn, "D" (F), 26-2-36; Pte. F. Pyle, "D" (D), 4-3-36; Pte. F. Booker, "D" (D), 7-3-36.

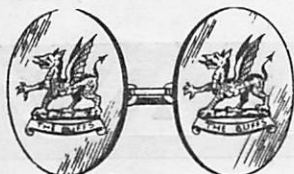
APPOINTMENT.

834135 Pte. J. Gawler, "B" (C), appointed Paid L/Corporal, 7-2-36.

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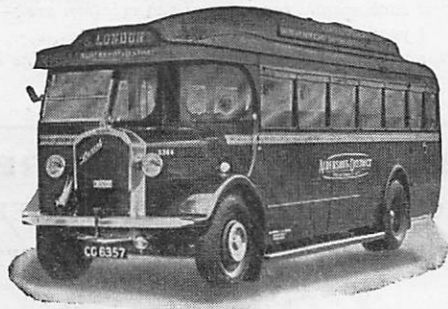
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